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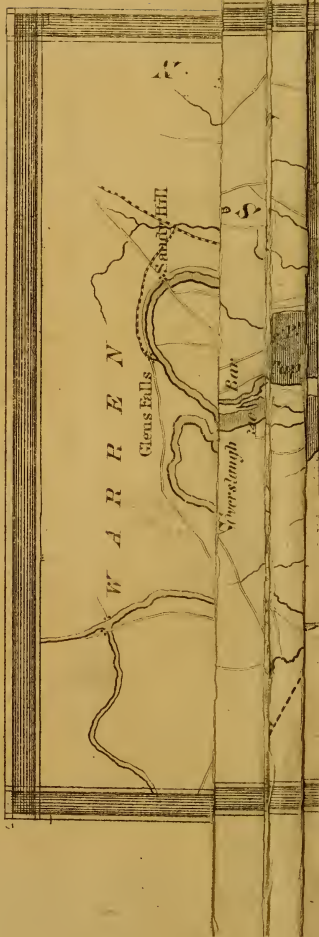


POINTS OF THE  
Hudson River





HUNT'S MAP OF THE  
HUDSON RIVER & VICINITY.



# LETTERS

ABOUT THE

# HUDSON RIVER,

AND ITS

# VICINITY.

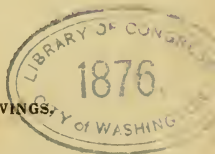
WRITTEN IN 1835—1837.

*Freeman Hunt.*

A chield's amang ye takin' notes,  
And, faith, he'll prent it.—*Burns.*

THIRD EDITION,

WITH ADDITIONS AND ENGRAVINGS.



New York:

PUBLISHED BY FREEMAN HUNT & CO.

No. 141 Nassau Street.

1837.

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**ENTERED,**

**According to Act of Congress, in the year 1836, by**

**FREEMAN HUNT,**

**in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Southern District of  
NEW YORK.**

**STEREOTYPED BY FRANCIS P. RIPLEY,  
NEW YORK.**



TO THE  
HON. JAMES EMOTT,

OF POUGHKEEPSIE,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

IN TESTIMONY OF THE

HIGH APPRECIATION IN WHICH HE IS HELD

BY HIS FRIEND AND SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.



## PREFACE.

---

THE following letters were originally written for the American Traveller. They were commenced without the remotest expectation of their obtaining a circulation beyond that print. They have, however, been copied into other journals, and it has occurred to the writer, that their publication in a connected form, might prove interesting and useful to the thousands who travel for business or pleasure in the steamboats that daily navigate the Hudson River.

The letters, he is aware, possess no peculiar merit. They are plain, matter-of-fact epistles ; embracing, however, a variety of geographical, historical, statistical, and other matter, connected with the noble river, and the flourishing villages on its borders.

As several important villages and towns on the river have been very briefly noticed, or altogether passed by, it is the purpose of the writer to continue his epistles to the Edi-

tor of the Traveller ; and should the present collection meet with encouragement, a second series, a volume of corresponding size and appearance, will, in the course of the coming fall, or ensuing spring, be published.

The writer would not omit this opportunity of acknowledging his obligations to Capt. Lathrop, A. J. Downing, Esq., P. Potter, Esq., and several other gentlemen, for the facilities afforded by them, severally, in procuring much valuable information.

New York, July 25, 1836.

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#### NOTE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

It was the intention of the writer of the following series of letters, to have introduced a sketch of the history of steam navigation on the Hudson ; and, to gratify the curiosity of the distant reader, to have described the splendid boats that plough its waters :—to have spoken of the speed of the Swallow, Erie, Champlain, Robert L. Stevens, Utica, and Rochester ; of the elegance and comfort of the North America, Ohio, De Witt Clinton, and Albany, and of their efficient and gentlemanly officers. The boats on the North and East Rivers, are not surpassed by any in the world, for splendor or speed. Several towns have also been omitted, as well as the names of individuals who have done the “state some service ;” but should another edition be called for, the writer will introduce other matters, that would prove interesting to him that travels up and down the river, and to him, who may thank Providence that he dwells on its beautiful banks, and inhales its healthful and invigorating breeze.

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# LETTERS ABOUT THE HUDSON, &c.

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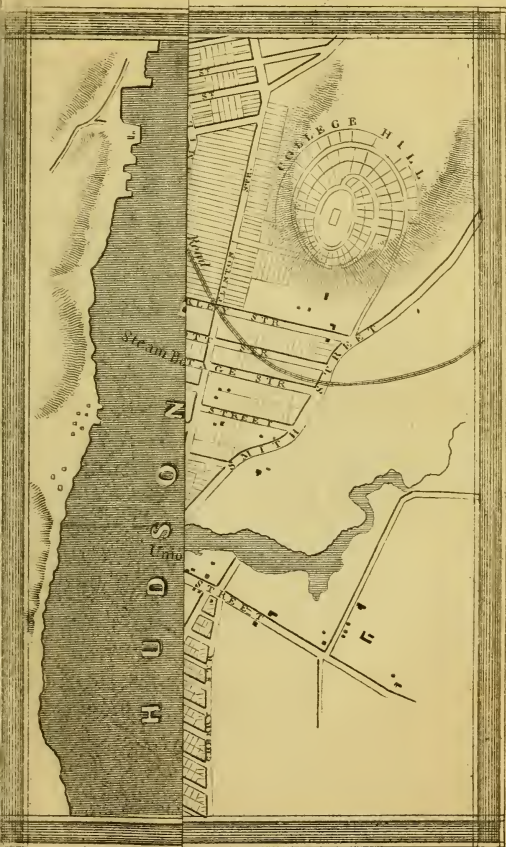
## LETTER I.

*Poughkeepsie—Location—Products of Dutchess County—Population of Poughkeepsie—Sidewalks—Churches—Enterprising men—Education—College and Academies—Remarkable rise of real estate—Cause of it—A place for mechanics—Prospect from Mansion Square—Hatch's Hotel, etc.*

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Sept. 5, 1835.

DEAR P.—In my last from New York city, I promised the disclosure of some facts relative to this interesting and flourishing village. But the peculiar advantages of its location, its rapidly increasing population, the public spirit of the citizens, the great advance of real estate, and the introduction of new sources of improvement and wealth, have been of late so generally the subject of newspaper remark, that I am fearful I shall not be able to add much that is new or interesting to the general stock. But to begin.—Poughkeepsie may justly rank with the first villages in New York or New England. Indeed, I am not acquainted with a single village which in some important particulars equals it, and but few that will

bear a favourable comparison. It is situated on the east bank of the Hudson, midway between Albany and New York. It is the court town of the richest county save one in the "Empire State," and as a highly cultivated agricultural county, it is, I apprehend, unsurpassed by any other in the Union. The gross products of the county, from its soil, its mines, and its manufactories, are believed by persons best qualified to judge, to approach very near to *five millions of dollars* per annum. The products of Dutchess and Ulster counties, and a portion of the western towns of Connecticut, are brought to this village, where they are shipped for the great commercial market. The village is very compact—the streets numerous, spacious, and well paved. The sidewalks too are neatly paved, and give the traveller a very favourable impression of the public spirit of the corporation. The population of the village in 1830 was 5022, and the town about 7000; now the population of the village exceeds 7000, and the town contains well nigh 10,000. The assessment of real estate in the corporation in 1834 was \$1,099,085; of personal, \$937,700. There are seven places of public worship: one Baptist, two Friends, one Episcopal, one Methodist, one Presbyterian, and one Dutch Reformed. The Episcopal church is a beautiful Gothic edifice. It was built in 1833. A second









Episcopal church is about being erected. A second Presbyterian church is now going up, and another Baptist and Catholic church are, I understand, to be commenced without delay. The public spirit of such men as Cunningham, Talmadge, Potter, Oakley, Vassar, Hatch, and a few others, gentlemen of intelligence and liberality, will not stop till it has given the place not only a beautiful external appearance and a business character, but endowed it with the means of education and intellectual improvement. They have projected, and are making rapid efforts for building a large and commodious academy for girls and boys; and a lofty and one of the most beautiful sites in the county has been purchased, on which an imposing edifice is to be built, to be occupied as a collegiate school of the highest order. Another is to be erected and liberally endowed for young ladies. These advantages of general education, will unquestionably hold out inducements of the most powerful kind, to wealthy gentlemen with families to settle in this healthy and delightful village. At a recent sale of land, quite a number of persons of this description were present, and one hundred and eighty-three lots of ground, suitable for house lots, together with a farm of one hundred and three acres, situated two miles south of the courthouse, were sold for \$79,279. Lots which were sold



eighteen months since for \$600, have been sold for \$4000. A plot of fourteen acres in the suburbs of the village, which was purchased ten months since for \$4000, was recently sold for \$14,000. Another plot, which could have been purchased nine months before for \$10,000, was sold a few days since for \$24,000. A farm in the vicinity, which was offered twenty months since for \$22,000, has lately been sold for \$68,000. A lot in the village, purchased sixty days since for \$2000, has been sold for \$5000. This enumeration of facts I have from the most unquestionable authority. Some view this rise as the result of the "speculating mania," which exists all over the country at this time. But I must, I confess, concur with an intelligent gentleman of New England, whom I have just seen, in the opinion, that the primary cause of this advance is to be found in the enterprise and public spirit manifested by the gentlemen alluded to above, and which now seems to prevail with the whole population.

Few places in the country afford better opportunities for ingenious and industrious mechanics. The enterprising gentlemen who are labouring with laudable zeal to promote the growth of Poughkeepsie, have struck out a course which cannot fail of success, that of introducing new branches of business; hence every ingenious mechanic is ta-



ken by the hand, and every facility afforded him for starting and prosecuting his business.

I have, perhaps, already extended my letter beyond the limits allotted a correspondent; but I consider the general diffusion of the statistical, commercial, and geographical knowledge of interesting portions of our wide-spread republic, of vast importance to enterprising Yankees; and as your paper has an extensive circulation, and particularly in our best hotels, where such information is eagerly sought for by the traveller, I feel persuaded that the space occupied will not be thrown away, and therefore, with your permission, I shall devote one or two letters more to this place. The delightful prospect from Mansion Square, and the neighbouring hill, which affords the most extended view of hill and dale, cultivated to a charm, the courteous and intelligent society, and the comforts of one of the best hotels in the country, have rendered my tarry very pleasant, and induced me to linger much longer than I anticipated on my arrival. It is scarcely necessary, but in justice I am induced to mention, that the hotel alluded to, is now kept, and has been for the last seven years, by Messrs. A. S. Hatch & Son—and a more airy, comfortable, and commodious house, or more courteous and gentlemanly hosts, I have seldom met with in my journeyings.

## LETTER II.

*Col. Stone's description of the view from College Hill—  
Streets—Reservoir—Whaling Companies—Manufacture  
of Silk—New Whale Ship—Anecdote—Good Wives.*

Poughkeepsie, Sept. 25, 1835.

DEAR P.—Since writing my last from this place I have seen the letters of Col. Stone, the *elite* editor of the Commercial Advertiser, written while “luxuriating” on the delicacies of the *Mansion House*, and although I alluded to the splendid views afforded from the hill in the vicinity of “Mansion Square,” whose brow is to be crowned with the classic temple of learning, I cannot refrain from introducing a passage from the Colonel’s graphic description.

He says:—“It is neither of steep nor of difficult access, and is sufficiently elevated to afford a landscape of great extent, and of mingled grandeur and beauty. It will be studded with villas on all sides to its base. On the south, it will overlook the town of Poughkeepsie and the beautiful district of country, thence to the Fishkill range of mountains and the highlands. On the west and the north, the Shawangunk and the Catskill mountains rear their azure crests in the distance,—the Hudson si-

lently rolling his mighty volume of waters through the vale below; while on the east the prospect is only bounded by the mountainous regions of western Connecticut and Massachusetts. And on all sides, within the circle I have thus indicated, the landscape is of surpassing beauty—composed of fertile villas and gently swelling hills—of farms, orchards, and gardens, in a high state of cultivation, studded with villas, and ornamented with forests of various timber—among which are the oak and the locust. Such will be the position of the Poughkeepsie University—the eye resting, on which soever side it falls, upon a country resembling an immense garden—rich, fertile, beautiful!”

Since 1831, more than \$100,000 have been expended in opening, regulating, and paving streets. A reservoir has been built on an eminence about half a mile from Hatch's Hotel, for supplying the village with water for the extinguishment of fires, at an expense of from 25 to \$30,000, showing a degree of liberality on the part of the corporation, not surpassed, if we take into the account the relative means, by the city of New York, in their project for bringing spring water to that city. Two whaling companies, with a capital of \$200,000 each, have been established. A company for the growing and the manufacture of silk, with a capital of \$200,000, has commenced the erection of a

brick factory, thirty-six by one hundred feet, four stories high. The silk factory will be in operation before the close of the present season.

One of the ships now building in the extensive shipyard of Messrs. Tooker & Hait is to be called the Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, a compliment to that gentleman, as merited as it is just; for to his liberal and enterprising spirit, in a great measure, belongs the present prosperity and future prospects of the village.

And here I cannot refrain from relating an anecdote of one of the gentlemen who have been very active in every laudable effort to promote the good of Poughkeepsie. Possessed of ample resources, but a heart much larger than his ability, his liberality was scarcely circumscribed by his means; his purse and his credit were never solicited in vain. His resources, however, in time failed, and he became a bankrupt; but in order to provide for his family, he commenced the business of a broker, and as usual, before the traffic was prohibited by law, sold lottery tickets. At the drawing, half a ticket was left on his hands, and that ticket came out a prize of \$50,000; and although he had taken the benefit of the insolvent act, and was not of course legally obliged, he very magnanimously paid every creditor to "the uttermost farthing." He had something left. Fortune has continued to

smile on the liberal soul, and he is now once more independent, actively engaged in advancing the public good. Such men are an honour to human nature. Would to God we had them in every village throughout our wide spread country.

By the way, friend Porter, if you have any young men in your goodly city in want of wives, and good ones I have no doubt—some of the fair are certainly very beautiful—I advise you to send them on forthwith to the care of our gallant young friend of the Poughkeepsie Hotel, as there are in the village, according to a census just completed, one thousand one hundred and thirteen unmarried young ladies, ready, doubtless, to enter into the blissful estate of matrimony. Hatch takes the best care of all visiters, whatever may be their business, when put under his protection. Adieu for the present. Yours, &c.

### LETTER III.

*Peekskill—High tide—East winds—High-school—Paulding's monument—Visit to Gen. Van Courtlandt—Antony's Nose—Bank—Religious societies—Hotels—Capt. Tuthill—Steamboat Union.*

Peekskill, Sept. 1835.

FRIEND P.—Here I am, at Peekskill, completely hemmed in by the overflowing tide of the Hudson. The street in front of the house is covered with water ankle deep, and still increasing. The water has nearly reached the window where I sit writing, which overlooks the river to Caldwell's Landing, and the noble Dunderberg but two miles distant, yet scarcely visible in consequence of the dense state of the atmosphere.

Peekskill is about forty-five miles from New York, containing well nigh fifteen hundred inhabitants, and with a little more enterprise would, from its pleasant and healthy location, and its proximity to the city of New York, become a place of considerable mercantile importance. The high tide, alluded to above, is not an uncommon occurrence at this season of the year on the river. The east winds are not one half so unpleasant in their effects upon the system here as in your city. They be-

come somewhat softened in their passage over the country; and the highlands of the north stand up as an impregnable barrier to keep off these "down east" intruders.

But for Peekskill. The most interesting evidence that there is a spark of public spirit existing in this ancient settlement, which will sooner or later burst into a flame, is to be found in the establishment of a high-school, and the erection of a very neat, spacious and appropriate edifice for that purpose, on a most delightful eminence; where the healthful and invigorating breeze from the towering mountains in the vicinity, pours forth its "*medicinal*" influence; and where the soul alive to the sentiments of beauty, variety, and sublimity, can view with rapture the variegated and picturesque scenery, the beautiful and expansive bay, the towering and gigantic Dunderberg, the "race," and the opening of the majestic highlands. But my pen affords an altogether inadequate description of the scene. Peekskill is certainly well situated for purposes of education; furnishing, as it does, facilities for communicating daily, nay almost hourly, with the great city; and from my own personal inference, as well as the testimony of others, I doubt whether there is a place in the whole range of the Hudson, where health can be more conveniently sought, or more surely gained. The



academy was built with a capital stock, divided into shares of five dollars each, and taken up principally by the inhabitants of the village. The principal, Mr. Thompson, is a very worthy, intelligent teacher. The present number of pupils is about sixty. Board is furnished in the same building to scholars, whose parents do not reside in the village.

It should not be forgotten that this is the birth-place of John Paulding, the American farmer, who intercepted Andre, the British spy, at Tarrytown, some fifteen miles below this place. I rode out to his monument a few days since. It is situated about two miles to the north of the village. The monument is of marble, a pyramid, about fifteen feet high, running to a point. It is enclosed in an iron railing about twelve feet square. The main inscription is on the south side, and runs thus:—

“Here reposes the mortal remains of

JOHN PAULDING,

Who died on the 18th day of February, 1818,  
in the 60th year of his age.

On the morning of the 23d of September, 1780,  
Accompanied by two young farmers of the county  
of Westchester,

(Whose names will one day be recorded  
on their own deserved monuments,)



He intercepted the British Spy, Andre.

Poor Himself,

He disdained to acquire wealth by sacrificing

His Country.

Rejecting the temptation of great rewards,

He conveyed his prisoner to the American camp,

And

By this act of noble self-denial,

The treason of Arnold was detected;

The designs of the enemy baffled;

West Point and the American Army saved,

And these U. S.

Now by the grace of God free and independent,

Rescued from imminent peril."

On the opposite side is written—

"The Corporation

of the

City of New York

Erect this tomb

as a memorial

Raised to

Public Gratitude."

On the east side is a beautiful wreath engraved on the marble with the word "Fidelity." The inscription on the other side I have forgotten.

On the way to the monument, and but a few rods this side, is the residence of Gen. Pierre Van

Courtlandt, an old gentleman of sixty. I called on him and spent an hour very pleasantly. He was reading "Horse Shoe Robinson," and remarked, as he laid it down, that he was not a little interested with it, as he liked every thing which related to the revolutionary war. His father was an officer in that war, and his grandfather was the first Lieutenant Governor of this State; an office which he held for more than twenty years. The place where he lives, and all his real estate, he holds by the will of his father; and the original grant of the British King to his grandfather. Gen. V. is the owner of Antony's Nose, (on the river,) as it is called. He gave me the origin of that name.

Before the revolution, a vessel was passing up the river, under the command of a Capt. Hogans; when immediately opposite this mountain, the mate looked rather quizzically, first at the mountain, and then at the captain's nose. The captain, by the way, had an enormous nose, which was not unfrequently the subject of good-natured remark; and he at once understood the mate's allusion. "What," says the captain, "does that look like my nose? call it then if you please Antony's nose." The story was repeated on shore, and the mountain thenceforward assumed the name, and has thus become an everlasting monument to the memory of the redoubtable Capt. Antony Hogans and his nose.

The elevation of Antony's Nose is one thousand two hundred and twenty-eight feet from the level of the river, and directly opposite Fort Montgomery Creek. Washington Irving supposes its name to be derived from the nose of Antony Van Corlaer. It differs from the origin given me by Gen. V.

The christening of the mount is described in the story of the Dutch governor's first voyage up the Hudson, as follows: "Just at this moment the illustrious sun, breaking in all his splendour from behind one of the high cliffs of the Highlands, did dart one of his most potent beams full upon the refulgent nose of the sounder of brass. The reflection of which shot straightway down, hissing hot into the water, and killed a mighty sturgeon that was sporting beside the vessel! When this astonishing miracle came to be made known to Peter Stuyvesant (the governor,) he, as may well be supposed, marvelled exceedingly; and as a monument thereof, gave the name of *Antony's Nose* to a stout promontory in the neighbourhood, and it has continued to be called Antony's Nose ever since." From here to *Fort Montgomery*, which is now in ruins, on the opposite side, a large boom and chain was extended during the revolutionary war, which cost about seventy thousand pounds sterling. It was partly destroyed by Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, in October, 1777.

Gen. V. gave me the time from a small bull's eye gold watch, which he drew from his fob, and which he said must be at least one hundred and fifty years old, as it was the property of his great-great grandfather, and had come down regularly to him.

After drinking the hospitable General's health, in a glass of fine old Madeira, I took my departure. The residence of Gen. Van Courtlandt is antique, but the grounds around are in the highest state of cultivation. A Bank, with a capital of \$200,000, was established in Peekskill about two years since, and General V. was elected President. It is in a flourishing condition. The stock has sold at almost as great an advance as ever the United States Bank stock did. There is a bust of Gen. Van Courtlandt's father in the bank. The produce of many towns in Westchester, and most of the towns in Putnam county, is shipped in the Peekskill sloops for New York. There are seven which are constantly in motion, with produce of various kinds for the New York market.

There are six religious societies in Peekskill—two Friends or Quakers—one Presbyterian—one Dutch Reformed—one Methodist—one Universalist—and an Episcopal Church is about being erected. With a portion of the funds of the Trinity corporation, it will doubtless flourish.

The Hotels in Peekskill are not remarkable for the splendour of their construction, or their commodiousness, neither are they managed with remarkable liberality or comfort. I would, however, except the house kept by Col. Williams, who, by the way, is a very gentlemanly, worthy man; and has the reputation of keeping a good house, although I have had no opportunity of judging. He is about removing into a neat and spacious building, which is nearly finished, and then I hope to speak more understandingly of his establishment. A new hotel is soon to be erected on Antony's Nose, as a summer house.

Although I have "spun out" this epistle to a great length, I cannot forbear the present opportunity of alluding to the fine little steamer Union, which plies between New York and this village daily, landing passengers at Greenburgh, Yonkers, Tarrytown, Sing Sing, Grassy Point, and Caldwell's. Capt. Tuthill, of the Union, is an affable, courteous officer. He unites these qualities with great experience, having been connected with the Hudson River steamboats for more than twelve years. A few days since, a party of gentlemen presented him with a splendid silver pitcher, as a token of their respect for his private worth, and excellent conduct as a steam navigator. But I must close. Adieu for the present.

## LETTER IV.

*Dobbs' Ferry—Tarrytown—Population—Washington Irving—Churches—Circumstances at a Hotel, or treatment of travellers—The place of Andre's capture—An old Dutch Church—Rev. Mr. Smith—Schools—Road to White Plains—Inscription on Van Wart's Monument—White Plains—Imprisonment for debt.*

New York, Oct. 20, 1835.

FRIEND P.—On Wednesday I left New York in the good steamer Union, “not knowing the things that would befall me.” \* \* \* \*

I, however, landed at Dobb's Ferry, about twenty miles up the Hudson, and lingered about the place two hours, viewing the thrifty orchards and highly cultivated grounds of Livingston and Constant, and then took private conveyance to Tarrytown. Dobb's Ferry and Tarrytown are two small villages in the township of Greenburgh, both market and steamboat landings, situated about five miles apart on the east side of the Hudson. The population of the whole township does not exceed fifteen hundred.

There are a number of delightful, picturesque, and extensive prospects, and several wealthy gentlemen farmers reside in the vicinity. On our road to Tarrytown we passed the elegant man-

sion of a Mr. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton, the distinguished statesman, who fell in a duel with the ambitious Burr. A quarter of a mile from the main road towards the Hudson, about midway between Dobbs' Ferry and Tarrytown, is the residence of Oscar Irving, a nephew of our distinguished countryman, Washington Irving, who is erecting a cottage near that of his relatives, where he intends to pass his life in rural retirement, and the pursuit of literature and learning. His elegant and graphic pen, and his chastened and classic imagination, will add new charms to the noble, the majestic, the exquisite scenery of the Hudson. With a heart alive to the emotions of benevolence, and with habits congenial to the genius of domestic bliss, I am not a little surprised that one who has portrayed with grace and delicacy, and has in his works rendered the most exalted tribute to the female character, should so long remain in "single-blessedness," as a certain condition is sometimes falsely called. But the busy tongue of rumour says, that the charm of celibacy will soon be broken, and that the *best* of writers, will become the *best* of husbands. So mote it be.

At Dobbs' Ferry there are two places of public worship. A Presbyterian meeting house, a small wooden building; and a neat little Episcopal church, built of stone, in the gothic order. There are two

public houses, and a post-office. On the land of Livingston, are the remains of an old fort thrown up in the war of the revolution. Harvey, the painter, resides here. The village has a "*newness*," which indicates improvement. Building lots, and farms I am told, advance with the general rise all over the country.

On my arrival at Tarrytown, I put up at a place purporting to be a Hotel; but unlike any thing I ever before visited; and God forbid that I should ever "see the like again." It was towards sundown when I arrived. My small baggage I took to my lodgings, and coming down, I inquired of a young woman, a daughter of "mine host," the hour of tea. "Oh," said she, "some time after dark, when the folks come in from picking apples." This answer sounded rather queer and indefinite, but I let it pass. Appearances were much in favour of the house: it was neat—the beds were comfortable, and every thing around had an air of cleanliness. The next morning, at breakfast, "mine host" was repeating a quarrel which took place between him and a lodger during the night. He said "he would not entertain these d——d Yankees—he was rich enough to live without keeping a public house, and those who stopped with him must behave themselves and do as he wished them, or he'd kick them out quicker than they came in."



He was, however, very civil to me that day. In the evening, I called on a reverend gentleman, and returned about nine, when I found the house closed and barred, and not the glimmer of a light to mark the mansion of the living. A few gentle taps, however, brought "mine host," in the condition so delicately and so graphically described by Tom Cringle. The door opened, and the mouth of "mine host" at about the same time, in tones of corresponding harmony—(*vocal and instrumental*)—"What are you out so late for?" said he. I made no reply, but took the light from the "impudent varlet's" hand, and made my way to bed. The next morning I arose at half past 7, and seeing no indications of approaching breakfast, I sallied forth in pursuit of a barber, which not finding, I returned, and inquired if breakfast was ready. "We have been to breakfast," said the *hostess*. "Been to breakfast!—why didn't you call me, madam?" said I. "We have other business to attend to without calling folks up to breakfast," said she. "Well then," said I, "you may attend to it—give me my bill, if you please, madam." I paid my bill, two shillings and sixpence a meal, *including* boiled pork and cabbage, and *exclusive* of any thing else, *save* and *except* potatoes, turnips, and onions, in one miscellaneous dish of salmagundi.

I related my sufferings to the good people of

Tarrytown, and excited no little commiseration, and the most courteous and friendly proffers of kindness and hospitality ; but as I intended leaving town that day, I declined the invitations. I found, however, that the host and his house were well known, and that scarce a traveller stopt there without having some difficulty with the ignorant booby who pretends to keep a hotel. Indeed, many travellers go four or five miles out of the way, to avoid stopping at this house. I have related these circumstances for the benefit of your numerous subscribers in this State, and those who may chance to pass through this place, and hear the name of Smith of the "Tarrytown Hotel."

Tarrytown is a still, quiet village, famed in the history of the first American war, as the place where Andre was captured by Paulding and his associates. No monument marks the spot where this scene occurred, although it is pretty accurately ascertained. The inhabitants of the village made the attempt some years ago, but for want of energy and spirit did not accomplish the design. It was a memorable event, and one of great importance to our national liberty, and some monument should tell the place and record the circumstances.

It is said that the tree, under which Andre was taken, was struck by lightning on the very day the news of Gen. Arnold's death was received at Tar-

rytown. Singular coincidence this! It was a white-wood tree, and uncommonly large, being twenty-six feet in circumference and forty-one high.

There is a "Dutch Reformed Church" at Tarrytown, one hundred and sixty-two years old, and a very ancient burying ground, supposed to be older than the church. The pulpit and the communion table are of oak, and were brought from Holland. The bricks were made in Holland. The Rev. Thomas G. Smith, the present pastor of this church, is a Scotchman, but was an *American* patriot in the revolutionary war. He is a worthy, intelligent, and hospitable old gentleman, of upwards of seventy, and has been the spiritual pastor of the flock for more than thirty years.

There are two excellent private boarding schools in this village, one for boys and the other for young ladies. The former is under the superintendence of a Mr. See, and the latter is managed by two Quaker ladies.

On Friday, I hired a conveyance to White Plains, seven miles east of Tarrytown. The route is a perfect zigzag, and I can assure you that we headed every one, at least, of the cardinal points of the compass. And for roughness, the passage of the Green Mountains does not even vie with it. This is all absolute matter of fact, and I am prepared to make affidavit to that effect before any justice of the

peace in Christendom. About midway, we passed the monument of Van Wart, of Andre memory. I alighted, and taking out a pencil, took down the several inscriptions on the four sides. On the North—

Here reposes  
the mortal remains  
of  
ISAAC VAN WART,  
An Elder of the Greenburgh Church,  
who died  
on the 23d of May, 1828,  
in the  
69th year of his age.  
Having lived the life, he died the death of the  
Christian.

On the South side it is written—

The Citizens  
of the  
County of Westchester  
Erected this Tomb,  
in testimony of the high sense  
they entertained for the  
Virtuous and Patriotic conduct  
of their fellow citizen,  
and as a memorial sacred to  
Public Gratitude.

On the East side we have—

Vincit Amor Patriæ.

Nearly half a century  
before this monument was built,  
The Conscript Fathers of America  
had, in the Senate Chamber, voted that  
Isaac Van Wart  
was a faithful Patriot—one in whom  
the love of Country was Invincible,  
and this Tomb bears testimony  
that the Record is true.

On the West side the inscription reads after this manner—

“Fidelity. On the 23d of Sept. 1780, Isaac Van Wart, accompanied by John Paulding and Daniel Williams, all Farmers of the county of Westchester, intercepted Major Andre on his return from the American lines in the character of a Spy, and notwithstanding the large bribes offered them for his release, nobly disdained to sacrifice their country for gold, secured and carried him to the commanding officer of the district, whereby the dangerous and traitorous conspiracy of Arnold was brought to light, the insidious designs of the enemy baffled, the American army saved, and our beloved country free,” &c.

Paulding was, unquestionably, the master spirit

of the trio. He is represented by those who knew him, as a brave man and a good soldier.

White Plains is a small village, with about five hundred inhabitants, and is the county town for Westchester. The Court House and the Jail, of course, have their location here. Thank God, however, the poor debtor is not incarcerated for poverty, in the prisons of New York. I blush for the attempt making in my native State to restore that relic of barbarism to the code. Continue in the same fearless way you have commenced, to advocate the cause of the poor and the oppressed, in opposition to a few *interested* enemies of popular rights, and the "inglorious twenty"\* will hide their diminished heads, and retire to the obscurity they deserve. I had intended to notice the last named village more fully, but the foregoing digression fills the second sheet of your New York Traveller.

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\* Mr. Porter, the editor of the American Traveller a paper which he has conducted with ability for the last ten or twelve years, has ever fearlessly advocated the abolishment of imprisonment for debt. The "inglorious twenty," is a term he applied to twenty Senators, who voted for the perpetuation of this barbarous law.

## LETTER V.

*Put up at the Mansion House—Troy a prominent point of interest—Visit to Mrs. Willard's Female Seminary—The Amateur Vocalist—Mrs. Willard's zeal in the cause of Education, &c.*

Mansion House, Troy, N. Y., November 13, 1835.

FRIEND P.—My epistle, in one respect at least are “like angels visits, few and far between,” but on that account may, I presume, be the more acceptable to that portion of your readers who prefer the sparkling effusions of a brilliant imagination to the *plain* matter of fact letters of a *plain* man, like your humble servant. I arrived here two days since, and find myself so pleasantly located under the protecting care of the worthy Doctor, who presides over the destinies of the transient residents of the Mansion House, that my tarry will be somewhat protracted, and you may expect to hear from me several times before I take up the line of march.

Troy may be considered a prominent point of interest as the mercantile head of navigation on the noble Hudson; and its enterprise and public spirit, as well as its topographical situation, entitle it to more than a passing notice. I have just returned from a visit to Mrs. Willard's Female Seminary,

and it affords me unfeigned pleasure to be able to give some account of one of the most interesting establishments of the kind in the Union. The principal of this Institution is a lady of no ordinary mind, and possesses in an eminent degree all those traits of character which add to the dignity of the sex. Mrs. Willard has been engaged in the cause of female education more than fifteen years past. In 1819 she established a Female Academy at Waterford, and obtained an act of incorporation from the New York Legislature, without, however, receiving any aid from the State. The plan of her institution, at that time unmaturing by the experience of years, met the decided approbation of the intelligent, and gave to the female sex advantages in point of solid mental acquirements, and general improvement, in branches of taste, utility, and science, much beyond what they had previously enjoyed in this vicinity. Encouraged by the liberality of a few gentlemen at Troy, she was induced to remove hither, in May, 1821; when she entered a new building erected for that purpose. Since that time her school has increased in importance and favour with the public, and has now probably a larger number of boarding scholars than any Female Academy in the Union. The building was enlarged in 1824, and in 1828 an additional edifice was erected, fifty by thirty-seven feet, con-



nected by a sort of out-door-chamber entry. Another addition to the main building was made in 1833. The several alterations have all been made without affecting the unity of the original design, and the main structure is now one hundred and thirty feet by forty.

There are at present about two hundred and sixty young ladies, from every state in the Union, from the Canadas, the West Indies, one from Scotland, one from London, and two from Paris. The last came over with Mrs. W. on her return from Europe, a few years since. Her family consists of one hundred and sixty persons, one hundred and ten of whom are boarding scholars. Mrs. Willard, as principal, is assisted by two "vice principals," and twenty-two teachers and officers, two only of whom are gentlemen.

Were I a Bachelor, I should have hesitated about accepting the pressing invitation of the hospitable head of the institution, to take tea with her numerous and attractive family. But the courtesy was extended so sincerely and frankly, and being anxious to learn something of the domestic arrangements of the institution, I cheerfully complied, although I confess I felt somewhat abashed, on entering a dining-room with one hundred and thirty blushing and beautiful maidens. My worthy hostess, however, by her ease of manners and agreea-

ble conversation, soon dispelled this feeling. There were six tiers of tables. We sat down at the head of the middle tier. Sweet home-baked wheat bread, with butter, hasty pudding and molasses, and an excellent cup of black tea, was the simple, but wholesome fare, set before us. Here, perhaps, I should remark, that the "*National dish*" alluded to is only served up occasionally. At breakfast, tea and coffee, with bread or toast, and meat, form the meal. The dinners are uniform, all alike; but one dish of meat is served, be it roast beef, lamb, or poultry; with, however, the usual and appropriate variety of vegetables.

After tea I accompanied my hostess to the lecture-room, directly over the dining-room, and listened with great pleasure to the vocal and instrumental performances of several young ladies. A sweet-toned piano of your Boston Chickering, "discoursed most eloquent music." I imagined myself listening to the masterly performance of some great professor, instead of a girlish amateur of sixteen. And, O ye powers of Jove, not to speak profanely, if the melody of that holy and happy world beyond the spangled sky, partakes of the exquisite harmony of the blooming beauty whose rich soft notes fell upon my ears, then is heaven worth all the miseries, sufferings, toils, and privations of life, aye, and the pains of martyrdom. I have heard our best theatrical

singers—I have heard those who possessed more power and compass of voice: but for rich, soft, silvery, exquisite, inexpressible sweetness, the fair pupil of the Troy Female Academy, in my estimation, is without a superior. At least, I have never listened to melody more fascinating.

Put this down as a burst of enthusiasm.—It is, I assure you, an honest expression of feeling, enkindled by the entrancing music of the fair lady's voice. I never before experienced the full *power* of music. But enough of what I can but poorly express.

Few women have laboured more arduously or more successfully in the cause of female education, than Mrs. Willard. Her zeal seems only to have been controlled by circumstances. Her plan of instruction is before the public. It has received the approbation of some of the wisest men of Europe. Dr. Combe quotes it in his essay on education, with unqualified approbation. Her academy furnishes every year more than thirty teachers, who scatter over the remotest parts of the Union. Her efforts in the cause of education in the once classic Greece, are, I believe, pretty well known. Through her instrumentality, a school has been established at Athens, "for the more especial purpose of instructing female teachers." During one single quarter, as far back as 1833, twelve female teachers went out among the Georgians, the Carolinians, the

Michiganians, the Vermonters, New Yorkers, &c. prepared under her auspices for the noble purposes of education. The fact, that Mrs. Willard's institution is applied to for teachers, induces young women who desire to devote themselves to the business of instruction, to turn their eyes hither, not only as the place for preparation, but as the starting point for enterprise. A large portion of this class are of New England descent, from the middling class of society: "They come to us," says Mrs. W., "with all that we could desire in the frame-work of their moral, intellectual, and physical character. Thirsting for knowledge, physically able to endure the labour of study, feeling the necessity of improving the time—they are pupils whom it is delightful to teach; and the seed of instruction, while we are yet sowing it, buds, springs forth, and blossoms before our eyes. Thus they cheer our labours, and they increase our reputation, by their decisive evidence of improvement. They go forth to do good to others, and they throw it back to us." But Mrs. Willard's pupils are not confined to the middling class. The daughters of the rich are with her, and many of them, she assures us, rank among the first in moral dignity and intellectual elevation. The management is purely republican, and illustrates the beauty of that form of government when directed by intelligence and energy.

## LETTER VI.

*Location and plan of Troy—Public Buildings—View from Mount Ida—Original proprietor of the City—Historical notice—Religious Societies—Banks and Insurance Companies—Water Works—Fountains—Washington Square—Legrand Cannon's Building—Causes of prosperity—Self-made men—Gov. Marcy an Attorney.*

Mansion House, Troy, Nov. 23, 1835.

DEAR P.—In my last, I briefly alluded to the location of Troy, as the head of navigation—as a place of great enterprise and public spirit—and gave a somewhat minute account of the Female Seminary. My present epistle will be chiefly confined to a brief historical sketch of the city, with perhaps an occasional digression.

Troy then, to begin, is handsomely situated upon the east bank of the Hudson, and with a foresight seldom observed, is laid out with a view of its ultimately becoming a place of considerable magnitude; and Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, (with the exception of River street, whose course is guided by that of the river, and which, as it recurves towards the east, receives the other streets running north and south, as well as those in the opposite direction,) with its regular squares and rectangular avenues, was selected as its model, by

the advice of a gentleman, who had made a then rare visit to that celebrated city. In the course of a few years, stores and dwellings sprang up in abundance, principally in River and First streets. The stores indeed are now generally confined to River and Congress streets. Nearly all the business is transacted there. River street is, in fact, the Pearl, the Front, the Water street, and the Broadway of Troy. The stores in River street are very spacious, and extend nearly a mile and a half. The remainder of the city exhibits the tranquil aspect and noiseless quiet seldom found but in the country. Many of the buildings, public and private, particularly those erected within the last five years, are spacious and elegant, while all display a neatness and propriety of construction, unequalled by those of any city of its size with which I am acquainted. The Court House, built of Sing Sing marble, is a splendid edifice after the Grecian model, perfectly chaste and classic in all its parts. The new Presbyterian Church, nearly completed, displays taste and liberality in its construction; and St. Paul's (Episcopal) will vie with any Gothic edifice of its class in the United States. It was erected some eight or nine years since. It is one hundred and three feet by seventy; and the walls are of a dark coloured limestone, hammered and laid in mortar. At the west end of the building, a tower

projects twelve feet, and is one hundred feet in height. There is a basement of nine feet, and the walls of the main building rise thirty-eight feet above it. The window over the altar is large, being forty feet by twenty. On each side of the building there are five windows, and three on each end. The galleries and ceilings are supported by clustered columns; the wood work is painted in imitation of oak. The cost of the church and lot amounted to about \$50,000.

There are in Troy twelve places of public worship—three Presbyterian, two Episcopal, one Quaker, two Methodist, one Scotch Presbyterian, one Roman Catholic, one Universalist, and an African Church, with a coloured preacher. One of the Methodist churches is of brick, and its architecture manifests good taste and judgment.

East of the plain upon which Troy is built, and not more than a quarter of a mile from the river, Mount Ida rises abruptly to the height of three or four hundred feet, from whose summit every house and store may be seen with perfect distinctness, while the eye is likewise gratified by a very extensive view, north and south, embracing nine locks at the junction of the great western and northern canals, Waterford, Lansingburgh, and Albany.

The greater part of the land where the city of



Troy now stands, was formerly owned by three farmers, relatives, of the name of Vanderheyden. That which now forms the most compact part, containing nearly two thirds of its population, belonged to the late Jacob D. Vanderheyden, long and well known in this vicinity under the appellation of "*the Patroon*." Public worship was first performed here in a small school house in 1792. The place was for some time called Vanderheyden, until, with reluctance, the proprietors consented to change it for the more brief and classic name of Troy. It was incorporated as a village in 1801, with a population of near two thousand inhabitants. In 1810, it contained a population of three thousand eight hundred and ninety-five. The legislature in 1816, granted it a charter, creating it a city, and vesting it with the usual powers and privileges of such corporations. In 1820, the population increased to five thousand two hundred and sixty-four; in 1825, to seven thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and in 1829, to ten thousand eight hundred and forty. The present population is about eighteen thousand, showing an increase, during five years, at the rate of 40 per cent., and more than half that of any equal time preceding. For this it is indebted, in part, to the opening of the Grand Canal, whose beneficent waters reached the Hudson in 1824. Troy has reaped a liberal share



of the boundless benefits diffused by that great undertaking, as it has opened her markets to the immense, the fertile regions of the west, from which they had been previously almost entirely excluded. The name of *Clinton*, the wise projector of this noble enterprise, should be had in everlasting remembrance by the citizens of this justly styled "empire state."

Two streams, affording immense water facilities, empty into the Hudson within the limits of the city, and one of them rolls down a beautiful cascade, about a mile from the Court House, well worth visiting as a curiosity. They already move the machinery of numerous mills and factories.

There are four Banks, the Merchants and Mechanics, Farmers, Troy City, and Bank of Troy, with an average capital of about \$350,000; and two Insurance Companies, the Rensselaer and Saratoga, and Troy. There is also one of those excellent institutions—a Savings Bank.

The city of Troy is abundantly supplied with excellent water from the neighbouring hills, at an expense of \$150,000, on the Philadelphia plan, except, that in that city it is raised by artificial means, and in this by its natural head, being seventy-five feet above the level of the city. On the corner of every street there are hydrants, and a hose placed on these, sends the water up higher and with much

greater force than a fire engine ; consequently, their use has been superseded.

The squares and private gardens are ornamented with perpetual water fountains. There is one of Italian marble, chaste, classic, and of course, of beautiful construction, directly in front of the Mansion House ; it sends up the water ten or fifteen feet, and in its descent resembles the weeping willow. The noise produced in the fall sounds like the continually pelting rain. Indeed, strangers, who put up at the Mansion House, not unfrequently, in passing the morning compliments with the affable Doctor, allude to the last night's shower.

Washington is one of the finest squares in the city. The Mansion House, belonging to Dr. Huddleston, facing the south, has quite an imposing appearance. On the east side, Legrand Cannon, Esq. a gentleman of enterprise and spirit, has nearly completed a block of stores that will vie with any I have ever seen in New York, Philadelphia, or Boston. There are eight of them, four stories high, with freestone fronts, making altogether a noble, business-like appearance.

Troy is indebted for its wealth and population, to its advantageous situation for commercial pursuits, and to the enterprise and economical habits of its citizens. Many, aye, most of the leading men in Troy, commenced life penniless. But industry,

energy, perseverance, and the smiles of that kind Providence, whose dewes descend alike on all, have produced a mighty change. Three of the leading men in particular, nearly related to each other, came here in early life from one of the New England States, humble mechanics, and in time amassed princely fortunes. Two of them have departed this life, leaving their children an abundance of this world's goods, and the inheritance of a name, more valuable than gold. Their loss was deeply felt, and lamented by the whole population. The remaining individual stands high in the esteem of the citizens, and is at the head of several institutions. The present Mayor of Troy was once a day labourer—he is now one of the most wealthy and influential men of the city. These are but a few of the many examples of the kind, even in this city. The state is full of such instances. In a "Troy Post" of 1822, I saw the other day the advertisement of W. L. Marcy, stating that he, in company with another individual, had taken an office, and would be happy to wait upon the public as attorneys at law. Step by step he has risen to the Chief Magistracy of the "Empire State." But to return to the causes of prosperity in this city. The great Western and Northern Canals empty into the Hudson directly opposite the centre of business, while she administers to an extensive country, east and

north, in the most minute articles of daily use by retail. With great natural facilities, and the invincible enterprise of the citizens, the prosperity of Troy must go on, increasing with a rapidity equal to that, at least, of the last ten years.

## LETTER VII.

*Revolutionary Reminiscences—Tree near the Academy—Execution of Strang and Palmer—Gen. Putnam's memorable Letter—Circumstances which led to the capture of Major Andre—Vignette on the bills of Westchester Bank, &c.*

Peekskill, December 4th, 1835.

DEAR P.—In September, while on a visit to this place, I gave a few rambling sketches of men and things. Among other matters, I alluded to the Academy, and its beautiful and commanding location; gave the inscription from Paulding's monument, etc., but neglected noticing the many interesting revolutionary associations connected with the place. Now as every thing relating to the revolution, that resulted in the establishment of our Independence, possesses an interest entitling it to attention, I cannot, while on the very spot so fraught with these reminiscences, forego the pleasure of alluding to what can never become dull to the ear of patriotic Americans.

But two miles from the village stands the dwelling occupied by Washington, while the American army were encamped in this place. The majestic tree near the Academy, on which Strang was hanged for some misdemeanour, still remains; and here

too is the place where Palmer, the American tory, was executed, by order of Gen. Putnam, whose memorable reply to Gov. Tryson, who wrote for his release, threatening vengeance if he were executed, deserves an enduring record. It briefly—emphatically unfolds the true character of that distinguished hero. The note runs thus:—

“Sir—Nathan Palmer, a lieutenant in your service, was taken in my camp as a spy; he was condemned as a spy; and you may rest assured, sir, he shall be hanged as a spy. I have the honour to be, &c.

“ISRAEL PUTNAM.

“P. S.—Afternoon. He is hanged.”

Not the threats of the British Governor, or the entreaties of Palmer's wife, could change the purpose of the determined General. I am informed by an old inhabitant of Peekskill, that the man who led Palmer to the gallows afterwards married his widow, and that a child of this union still survives.

I have before alluded to the capture of Andre, by Paulding and his associates; but there is a traditional circumstance, which occurred in Peekskill, or rather in Courtland, of which Peekskill is the principal village, that placed Major Andre in the path of the captors. For the facts connected with this tradition, I am indebted to R. E. Ward,

Esq. It seems that in the autumn of 1780, a farmer of this village was making cider, having been for a few days released from his country's service to follow his agricultural pursuits. The mill in which he was at work was situated on the east bank of the Hudson, near that part of Haverstraw bay, called "Mother's Lap." While busily employed in the manufacture of his cider, two young men (Sherwood and Peterson) with their muskets, (the usual accompaniment in those days,) approached the farmer, and after passing the usual salutations, and refreshing themselves with the new cider, seated themselves upon a log that lay near the mill.

The farmer observing them in close conversation, and looking very intently on some distant object, asked them the cause of their alarm and anxiety.

"Hush," speaking low, says Sherwood, "the red coats are about us."

"Where?" asked the farmer, in a whisper.

"Yonder, yonder, just within the Lap," answers Peterson, pointing at the same time to a spot where was an English gun-boat, with twenty-four men laying upon their oars. "Return to your mill," he added; and addressing himself to Sherwood, "we will crawl to the bank of the river, and give the red boys a shot."

Peterson and Sherwood drew near the margin of the Hudson, and placed themselves behind a large

rock, which was directly between them and the gun-boat. Here, after reconnoitring the situation of the gun-boat, and examining their guns, they fired upon the crew, and killed two persons. The soldiers that manned the gun-boat belonged to the British sloop of war *Vulture*, which lay at anchor in the Hudson, off Teller's Point. Not expecting to meet with the enemy, they had prepared themselves with no weapons of attack or defence, except a blunderbuss. This they hastily fired towards the shore, but without giving it any particular direction, and of course, without producing any effect. Quickly perceiving that all their efforts to defend themselves must be unavailing, as they were contending with a hidden foe, they put their boat about as speedily as possible, and proceeded towards the *Vulture*, presuming that its heavy arms would secure to them a far better protection from rebel outrage, than their own small blunderbuss. In proceeding back to the *Vulture*, they kept a proper distance from the shore, for the purpose of evading all further annoyance from the rebel muskets. The retreat was made good, and as the sun was just losing himself behind the towering mountains that border the Hudson in the vicinity of Haverstraw bay, the disappointed sailors might have been seen lifting themselves up the side of the *Vulture*.

Peterson and Sherwood remained in their place



of concealment, until some time after the crew of the gun-boat had reached their vessel, expecting that a reinforcement might probably be sent on shore to reconnoitre. But no movement of the kind was made, and they abandoned the rock, and rejoined the old farmer at the mill.

“What luck with the red coats?” inquires the farmer, hastily.

“Good luck and bad luck? if it is a possible thing,” replies Peterson.

“How can that be?” says the farmer. “Easy enough,” answers Peterson. “We had the good luck to come off unhurt, and the bad luck to kill two of the sailors in the gun-boat, whose only crime was being engaged in arms against us.”

While Sherwood and Peterson were informing the farmer of the result of the skirmish, a man was observed coming down the east bank of the river, just below Collabergh landing, and cautiously examining every thing around him. The stranger had gained the spot nearly opposite where the gun-boat had been stationed, before he observed the men at the mill; upon discovering them, he retraced his steps for a few rods, and took an easterly course towards Croton River. That man was no less a personage than Major Andre, bearing the traitor Arnold's despatches to the British General. The gun-boat was to have received him at the point

where it had been stationed, and conveyed him in safety on board the Vulture. The Vulture was to have conveyed him and his despatches to New York. He had conferred with the traitor the evening previous, a few miles below West Point, justly considered as the key of the Hudson. After all the necessary and proper arrangements had been made between the traitor and the spy, they separated, the one for his camp, and the other for the Vulture. The course of the latter lay along the west bank of the Hudson, about three miles below Caldwell's landing, and opposite Verplank's Point. At that place he crossed the river, and followed its course until he arrived at the particular spot in "the Lap," where the gun-boat had been stationed to receive him. Having heard the firing, and perceiving that the gun-boat had been forced or frightened from the place of assignation, he was compelled to alter his course, and proceed towards the interior of the county of Westchester. About eleven o'clock on the evening of that day, he found himself approaching Crumpond. At that place he remained through the night with a Mr. Smith. Early on the morn of the ensuing day, having procured a horse, he started for New York, determining to travel the distance by land. He crossed the Croton river at Pinesbridge, and at the time of his capture, was passing the Beekman woods, the largest forest in

Westchester county, and adjacent to the old Dutch Church alluded to in my letter about Tarrytown. So you will perceive, friend P., that West Point owed its safety in part to those who were instrumental in putting the Spy in the way of being captured; and while therefore the proper meed of praise is awarded to Paulding, Williams, and Van Wart, and monuments erected to their memory for the agency they had in the capture, the part acted by Sherwood and Peterson, and the agency they had in enabling the capture to take place, should not remain "unhonoured and unsung."

By the way, on the bills of the "Westchester Bank," established in Peekskill about two years since, there is a beautiful vignette picture, representing the arrest of poor Andre. He is in the act of supplicating his captors to let him escape; the discovered papers are in the hands of one of them, and the stern eyes of the others evince the determination to listen to no suggestions but those of patriotism. The form and features of Andre are admirably depicted—a miniature hangs in his bosom, exquisitely finished. The worthy editor of the "Westchester and Putnam Republican," printed in this village, has furnished me with some stanzas, suggested by the vignette I have above described, and with them I conclude this epistle, as I leave here to-day in the good steamer Union, for the city.

Before their country's foe they stand,  
Each with a stern and searching eye;  
Grasped with a firm and honest hand,  
The hostile records open lie:  
They read, and as each noble brow  
Wears the quiet shadow of resolve,  
The true and just exhibit now  
The secret which they dared to solve.

Away with gold! it has no power  
To turn the true heart from its quest;  
The ordeal of this solemn hour  
Gives firmness to the patriot's breast:  
And as the tempter's art is tried,  
He finds each supplication vain;  
The weary prisoner turns aside,  
To hide his labouring bosom's pain.

Tumultuous thoughts upon his mind  
In quick succession wildly crowd,  
As urged by the resistless wind,  
Spreads o'er the sky the tempest's cloud;  
Why bends his sad and languid glance  
Where, near his heart, that picture lies,  
Affection's fond inheritance,  
With sunny smile, and loving eyes!

Alas! upon that face no more  
The eager gaze of hope can turn,  
The dream of early love is o'er,  
And ne'er again its fires will burn;  
A shade is gathering o'er each tress,  
A gloom is lingering on the brow,  
And all its budding loveliness  
Is stained with tears of anguish now.

Brave, yet devoted! On thy head  
The bolt, by others forged, shall fall;  
And history on thy name shall shed  
Of fate, the wormwood and the gall!  
Yet wert thou noble—and thy soul  
The battle and the storm withstood,  
Till bending to a stern control,  
'Twas by a traitor's lure subdued.

Peace to thy shade, ill fated one!  
Though in the abbey's lengthened aisle,  
Scarce lit by day's meridian sun,  
Thy marble bust may sadly smile,  
Yet is there darkness on thy name,  
Though gentle pity mourns for thee,  
While patriots bless the holy flame  
Which kept thy captor's spirit free.

Yours, &c.

## LETTER VIII.

*Origin of "Sing Sing"—Statistics—Description of Sing Sing Prison—The Chaplain—System of Discipline—The Lynd System—Folger and Matthias'—Mount Pleasant Academy—Franklin Academy—The Newspaper—Public House, &c.*

Sing Sing, Mount Pleasant, Feb. 6, 1836.

DEAR P.—“Sing Sing” is the principal village of the town of “Mount Pleasant,” and is situated 34 miles north of New York, on the east side of the Hudson river. The name is derived from the Chinese, *Tsing Sing*, the title of a celebrated governor in China, of a city so called. It is said to be brought to this country by a Dutch settler who had traded with China. The whole town, the largest in point of population in Westchester county, contains by the state census of 1835, four thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight souls, and more females than males by one hundred and twenty-eight. There are, it also appears, in this town, three hundred and ninety-eight soldiers, nine hundred and seventy-three voters, forty-nine aliens, one hundred and twenty-four *natural* abolitionists, or to speak more significantly, people of colour; five hundred and sixty-seven married females under the age of

45; four hundred and thirty unmarried females between 16 and 45; and one thousand and sixty-nine unmarried females under 16. The township consists of 23,605 acres of land, the largest number of 21 towns in the county, except Cortlandt, which contains 33,315 acres. So much for statistics. Sing Sing is pleasantly situated on an elevation gradually rising from the river to the height of 300 or 400 feet. The principal object of interest or curiosity here is the State Prison. Through the courtesy of R. Wiltse, Esq. the agent, and Col. Sing, I visited the various departments, and was much gratified with the neatness, order, and regularity which prevailed in the several shops and workhouses.

The prison is situated on the east margin of the Hudson river, ten feet above high water mark.—The prison grounds contain one hundred and thirty acres, and may be approached by vessels drawing twelve feet of water. The prison-keeper's house, workshop, &c., are built of rough dressed stone, or "Sing Sing marble." The prison is four hundred and eighty-four feet in length, running north and south, (parallel with the river,) and forty-four feet in width, fronting westerly on the Hudson river, and communicating with the west yard by two doors, which open at the extreme north and south ends of the prison. The west yard is enclos-

ed by two buildings forty feet wide and two stories high, which are occupied as the kitchen, hospital, chapel, workshops, storehouses, &c.; these buildings extend from the prison westerly to the edge of the dock; the south wing adjoins the prison, but has no communication but from the hospital. The north wing is connected with the prison by a wall twenty feet in height, running north and south ten feet, thus enclosing an area of four hundred and ninety-four by four hundred and twelve feet. This yard communicates with the east yard of the prison, which is enclosed, by an open arch-way through the centre of the prison, and an arched gate-way through the wall at the north end. There is no door leading from the prison into the east yard. In the centre of the west yard is a range of shops forty feet wide, fronting on the Hudson, and running parallel with the prison two hundred and seventy-six feet, having wings which extend easterly towards the prison one hundred and forty feet, occupied as stone shops. The guard house is on the bank, on the east side of the prison, about 170 feet above the level of the yard, and commands a perfect view of the east yard, and most of the west. The prison is five stories high. There are two hundred cells on each floor, in all one thousand. There are at this time about seven hundred and eighty prisoners, and not more than ten or twelve



sick in the hospital. The largest number in this prison at one time, the keeper informed me, was nine hundred and forty.

The present chaplain of the institution, the Rev. Jonathan Dickinson, of the Presbyterian order, has the reputation of being well qualified for the purpose of imparting religious instruction, and impressing upon the minds of the convicts the duty they owe to their God and to society. And if any situation in which men could be placed, who have discarded every virtuous principle, is calculated to soften the heart and render them susceptible of religious reformation, it is when confined to the solitude of their cells, where they cannot escape the reproof of their own reflections, and where their duties as men and Christians are clearly pointed out by their religious teacher. Mr. Dickinson remarked to me that he never preached the gospel with more pleasure than he had here, nor indeed with equal interest. Here men in general have not been in the habit of hearing it; it therefore comes to them with the advantages of novelty; and their peculiar condition helps and even urges them to its consideration. I found the chaplain a very affable, humane, and intelligent gentleman. He politely favoured me with a glance at his unpublished report to the inspectors of the prison. "From what I have been led to observe," says Mr. D. "it

seems to me that while there is no *absolute* security in education against crime, yet it must be admitted that it imposes a certain amount of restraint on the predominant passions and propensities, which, though broken through in some instances, remains useful afterward as a means of throwing light upon the darkness of a person's criminal course, and when brought into this state for reflection, he is the better able to see and to weigh the follies of his life." Several instances have come under Mr. D.'s observation, where men had prostituted the privilege of early pious education; but at this distant day, after a series of transgressions, its early influences seem to have arisen from a long sleep, and are now in this secluded state exerting a most salutary, reclaiming effect.

The system and discipline of the Sing Sing Prison at the present time owe their origin to Elam Lynds, for many years the agent of the Auburn prison. His system combines solitude and the advantages of profitable employment. The convicts are shut up in separate cells at night, and on Sundays except when attending religious exercises in the chapel. While at work, the prisoners are not allowed to exchange a word with each other under any pretence whatever, nor to communicate any intelligence to each other in writing; not to exchange looks, winks, laugh, or motion, with each

other, nor make use of any signs, except such as are necessary to convey their wants to the waiters. This system was established at Auburn in 1824. Capt. Lynds assembled the convicts together, and giving the rules by which their conduct must be governed, told them they must henceforth labour diligently, and in perfect silence; that for every infringement of the rules which he had then given them, severe corporeal chastisement should be inflicted. The convicts were at first inclined to receive this as a mere threat, but they were soon convinced, from the energy of will and firmness of character exhibited by Captain Lynds at this crisis, that submission was inevitable.

The adoption of this system of confining each convict in a separate cell at night, rendered the Auburn prison (which at this time, 1824, contained but five hundred and fifty cells) insufficient to accommodate all the convicts in the state. An act was therefore passed by the Legislature, authorizing the erection of a new prison. Sing Sing was selected as the location, and Captain Lynds as the agent to build and conduct it. He was directed to take from the Auburn prison one hundred convicts, to remove them to the ground selected for the site of the new prison, to purchase materials, employ keepers and guards, and commence the construction of the prison. The reasons for taking the

convicts from Auburn, and transporting them so great a distance, instead of from New York, were, that the convicts at Auburn had been more accustomed to cutting and laying stone, and had been brought by Capt. Lynds into the perfect and regular state of discipline he had established at Auburn, and which was justly deemed indispensably necessary to their safe keeping in the open country, and the successful prosecution of the work.

The Auburn prisoners arrived at Sing Sing without accident or disturbance in May, 1825, without a place to receive or a wall to enclose them. On the same day a temporary barrack was erected to receive the convicts at night; they were then set at work, building the prison, making of each one a carpenter, mason, &c. and having no other means to keep them in obedience but the rigid enforcement of discipline by Capt. Lynds. During several years, the convicts, whose numbers were gradually increased, were engaged in building their own prison, and finally completed it in 1829. It then contained eight hundred cells. In 1831, another story was added, and the number of cells increased to one thousand.

What a commentary this on the Lynd system! That it has a tendency to restrain crime, will be seen by the following statistics, given in one of the reports of the prison. In 1831, 199 convicts were

received; in 1832, 188; in 1833, 151—total, 538, which shows a gradual decrease in three years, notwithstanding the great increase of population.

Thus much for the Sing Sing prison. Mount Pleasant, you know, is famous as being the scene of Matthias' impositions. Folger and his wife still reside in the village. He is a gentleman in his appearance and manners, and apparently not more than thirty-two or thirty-three years of age. They hope to live down the prejudices which have been created against them by their connexion with that fiend in human shape—*Matthias*.

The Mount Pleasant Academy, under the superintendence of Albert Wells, Esq. is in a flourishing and prosperous condition. The academy edifice is a spacious building of Sing Sing marble, sixty by eighty feet, three stories high, standing on a lot of four acres, delightfully shaded with fruit trees, on one of the most retired streets of the village, commanding too an extensive prospect of the river and adjacent country. In its internal arrangement, there is every desirable convenience for the principal's family and instructors, and the several departments of the school. The remarkable healthiness of the place, the beauty of the scenery, and the facility of communication with both city and country, conspire to render this one of the most delightful retreats for a literary institution. This academy

is under the direction of the "Regents." Boys are boarded and educated for \$150 per annum. A female seminary is about to be erected here on a liberal and extensive plan.

The Franklin Academy, a boarding school for young ladies in this village, is in high repute. It is under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Bleeker. There are seventy-five young ladies who board in the family, and receive instruction in the solid and ornamental branches. There is also a male department, entirely unconnected as to location, in which about eighty young gentlemen are instructed in the various branches of English and classical education.

There are on Mount Pleasant a Presbyterian, an Episcopal, a Baptist, and a Methodist church. One newspaper, the "Westchester Herald," conducted with considerable ability by a Mr. Roscoe. In regard to public houses, I can only say that the best is now, and has been for the last thirteen years, kept by Mr. E. Crosby, a son of him of "Spy" memory, where may be obtained very comfortable accommodations. But I have not yet found in my travels, the house that will compare with *your* "American" and *your* "New England." Brigham and Gould of the former, and Coleman of the latter, are my *beau ideal* of publicans.

## LETTER IX.

*Views of the Hudson—Historical Items—The Hudson a Lake  
—The old man's story.*

New York, March 10, 1836.

FRIEND P.—The congealed waters of the Hudson at this season of the year, totally exclude my ramblings, and I must content myself with the recollections of past journeyings and the reminiscences of other writers. Yes, I must draw in part upon the resources of abler pens, for facts wherewith to fill up my attempted illustrations of the noble North.

Disturnell of this city, has you know, commenced a series of views from original drawings, under the cognomen of "Picturesque Beauties of the Hudson River and its vicinity;" and Samuel L. Knapp, Esq. has undertaken to give historical and descriptive illustrations. Two numbers have already appeared, and should adequate encouragement be afforded, it is the publisher's intention to issue a number every two months. Each number contains three splendid engravings on steel; and the letter-press illustrations, though brief, are creditable to the taste and genius of the author. The vignette in the title page, presenting a view of the Palisades, is exquisite—decidedly the best in the

number. The Danube or Rhine, does not furnish more beautiful or picturesque views than our own beautiful Hudson; and the illustration of these beauties are worthy of the efforts of our most gifted painters, poets, and historians. The name of Henry Hudson, the discoverer of the noble river which bears his name, and "who is identified with its history," will be had in remembrance while its smooth waters roll on to the ocean's depth.—Hudson, says Col. Knapp, was the friend of Capt. John Smith, of Pocahontas memory. He entered the southern waters of New York on the 3d of September, 1609, and was the first navigator who visited them. Tradition says, that he landed at Long Island and traded with the natives. He next discovered the mouth of the river which has ever since been called by his name. He spent a week south of the Narrows, before he entered the bay, watching the natives, but at the same time holding a friendly traffic with them. He was not then aware, that the present site of the city and county of New York was an island. On the 14th, he proceeded through Tappan and Haverstraw bays, and anchored during the night near West Point. At times, Hudson and his men amused themselves in catching fish, which were found in abundance in the river, and of a fine flavour. The natives appeared more mild and social than those he encountered while entering the



river. On the 16th, he anchored at a place which now bears his name, Hudson. It is not certain how much further up he sailed. Antiquarians believe that he reached Albany, and that some of his men in boats proceeded still further, to the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. His vessel was very small for such an exploring voyage, a mere "*fly boat*," as some have called her, not larger than a small sloop used for the coasting traffic at the present time. Hudson's ship was called the Half Moon, and if not made for comfort, was better calculated for running into bays and harbours than larger boats.

It is the opinion of some, that the Hudson was originally a lake. Mrs. Phelps, late Vice Principal of the Troy Female Seminary, in her "*Female Student*," an excellent series of lectures delivered before the young ladies of that institution, expresses a similar opinion. She thinks it impossible to pronounce with certainty respecting the changes which may have taken place in the region watered by the Hudson and its branches; but that while passing down its current, and observing the adjacent country on each side, she has been strongly impressed with the belief, that the valley of this river was once a vast lake connected with the lakes on our northern border; that the highlands and palisades were the southern boundary of this lake. The

waters forcibly operating upon these barriers might, by degrees, have worn them away, until opening for itself a passage, this mighty mass rushed onward to the ocean. This, however, is mere hypothesis. She seems inclined to the opinion, that the region about Troy was once covered with water, and that Mount Ida and Mount Olympus were islands in this great lake. About two miles from Troy, on the east, there is a beautiful valley;—by following its course, you will find it winding its way toward the Hudson, resembling, in appearance, the bed of a river whose channel has been turned, or whose waters are dried up.

On the west side of the Hudson there is a singular ravine, often called the Dry River; this, instead of sloping banks like the beautiful vale on the eastern side, has abrupt and rugged shores, and a rocky, uneven bed: a little rill yet lingers among the rocks, convincing us, if farther evidence were necessary, that there has been a noble arm of the Hudson. Although on the eastern side, the vale of which Mrs. Phelps has spoken, bears less incontestible marks of its having been the bed of a river, there is but little doubt, that too was covered with water tributary to the large river. Referring then to the supposition, that the Hudson river is but the remains of a great lake, which suddenly discharged its waters into the Atlantic, we might suppose that

when this event took place, many rivers were formed by the inequalities of the surface, and that these rivers in time have changed their channels, or gradually subsided into dry land.

But a truce to geographical speculations about the changes of the "Hudson and its vicinity;" and now for an interesting revolutionary reminiscence, related to me by a gentleman who some time since visited your state. He put up at a house in Greenfield, and during the evening, while he sat in the bar room, heard a sensible old man relate the substance of what follows. On retiring to his room, he sat down and made a transcript; and gave it to the editor of the Greenfield Mercury, with whom he was acquainted. But for the "*Old Man's story.*"

"During the revolutionary war," said he, "there was a point of land on the Jersey side of the Hudson River, and not far distant from New York, which was the scene of a bloody conflict. There were about three hundred acres next to the river, from which the wood and timber had been cleared off; back of this was a heavy forest. On this elevated point, a large number of fat cattle, destined to supply the American army, were placed. Four or five miles distant, in New Jersey, there were three thousand light infantry, under the command of Lafayette. I was one of that detachment. Our business was to see that the cattle were not taken

from the point by the enemy. One morning, intelligence was brought into the camp, that several vessels had approached the point, and that a large body of British soldiers were landing. My regiment was ordered to march immediately for the Point. Rufus Putnam, a nephew of the old General, was our Colonel. He was well stocked with the Putnam mettle. He was a brave officer. I could never discern that he was not just as cool and self-possessed when going into battle as when sitting in his tent. We made a hurried march, and upon approaching the edge of the woods, the Colonel ordered the Adjutant to go forward and see where the troops were, and what was their number. The Adjutant soon returned, and reported they were forming upon the shore in three columns, and he should think the columns contained about one thousand each. 'Then,' said the Colonel, 'ride back to the camp as quickly as possible, and tell Lafayette to come on.' When the Adjutant had gone, Col. Putnam rode up to my Captain, who was Daniel Shays, of insurrection memory, and, said he, 'well, Capt. Shays, shall we be playing with them until the General comes?' 'That must be as *you* please,' replied Capt. Shays.

"Orders were soon given to advance to the open land upon the point. We now stood face to face with our foes. Firing very soon commenced.

Cannon from the shipping in the river poured forth their volleys; and small-arms did fatal execution. Col. Putnam rode back and forth in front of the regiment, as calm as a man at home, though the balls were whistling past him in every direction. We worked very fast, and for one regiment made a great noise. The corporal at my right hand, received a ball through the body, and fell, dying. I was young, and a dying man at my feet, bleeding and gasping, might perhaps cause my colour to fade a little. Capt. Shays stepped forward—‘George,’ said he, ‘never mind it, I will take his place;’ and he was as good as his word; he took the corporal’s gun and used it. Shays was the best Captain I ever served under. He was bold and kind. I will give him his due, though he has done unworthily since; we stood shoulder to shoulder in that day of peril. I was loading my gun the twenty-second time, when General Lafayette, with the main body of the light infantry, issued from the wood. Never shall I forget the feeling of that moment. Wellington was hardly more pleased to see Blucher in the battle of Waterloo, than we were to see our brother in arms. The main body formed at once, upon our left. Lafayette rode forward, (an elegant officer, and never did he fill my eye so entirely as at that moment;) though a mere stripling in appearance, in action he was a man—and

had Cornwallis seen him as we then saw him, he would not have called him 'the boy.' As he approached, 'Col. Putnam,' said he, 'how dared you fire before I arrived?' 'Oh,' said the Colonel, 'I thought I would be playing with them a little.' Lafayette at that moment seemed full of energy and fire—turning towards the line, and with a loud and distinct voice, marked by his French accent—said he, 'We fire no more—the whole line charge bayonets—rush onward, and drive them, where the devil drove the hogs.' The effect of his presence and his words was astonishing; every heart beat quick and full. We did rush on, and such a scene of carnage my eyes never saw. At first the British force charged to meet us, but they could not stand against us, and fled from the shore; we followed them, and drove them in the water; of the three thousand, about fifteen hundred got aboard the vessels. The rest were slain, and most of them at the point of the bayonet.

"I have described to you the most painfully interesting and horrid scene which I had ever witnessed. I never enjoyed killing men. I fought because I thought it to be my duty."

Yours, &c.

## LETTER X.

*The Travellers' Home—Mansion House, and its new proprietor—Troy House—Washington Hall—Apology—The Rail Road Cars—Description of Troy Bridge, etc.—Route to Balston and Saratoga Springs—Revolutionary Reminiscence—Battle at Bemis' Heights—Distance to Balston—"Sans Souci"—Balston—Return to Troy—Henry Burden—His residence—His genius, etc.—Reading Room, Troy—West Troy—Its business—M'Adamized road to Albany—Stages, etc.*

Mansion House, Troy, May 11, 1836.

' FRIEND P.—There was an old fashioned virtue, called *hospitality*—of which we have still extant some records in the history of the patriarchs, and recent traditions of its existence in some later generations. Perhaps there is yet a by-corner of the world, where traces may be found of it, and certainly there is still extant a command to exercise it. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

The discontinuance of this virtue, must be ascribed to the numerous artificial wants, created partly by the whims of fashion, and partly by the regular progress of society—increasing the expense of *good house-keeping*. We cannot welcome a guest, but at the sacrifice of some money, or time,



or *pride*—and, therefore, we close the door, and deny the obligation to open it.

Fortunately for the stranger, the same march of civilization has prepared another home, whose doors are always open to all who can pay for the entertainment. Many, even amidst the *unpaid* for *courtesies* of a private dwelling, sigh for the liberty and comfort of that “travellers’ home.” How often has the truth of these lines been felt, by every way faring man who has read them:—

“ Whoe’er has travell’d life’s dull round,  
Where’er his changes may have been,  
Must sigh to think, how oft he’s found  
The kindest welcome at an inn.”

But prosing and poetry aside. The “Mansion House,” so deservedly popular under the administration of Dr. Huddleston, has become the very *ne plus ultra* of “inns,” since it passed into the hands of Mr. Henry Hull, long and favourably known by the *bon tons* who have for the last ten or twelve years resorted to the medicinal “Springs of Lebanon” for health, or fashionable recreation. Mr. H. possesses in an “eminent degree” all the requisites of a good publican. Affable, courteous, and intelligent, with twenty years’ experience, he never fails to render his guests easy, comfortable, and happy. In a word, the whole *tout ensemble* of his establishment is just what it should be.



There are several other very good houses in Troy. The Troy House, by Mr. Kidd, is pleasantly situated, and is favourably spoken of by those who have visited it.

Washington Hall, by Messrs. E. & P. Dorlon, is also an excellent house. The building is spacious, the table well supplied, and the beds comfortable; and what is of importance to many, the *prices* are moderate.

To the traveller for business, and especially for pleasure, the character of a hotel is of paramount importance. It is, in fact, one of the "little things" on which the comfort and pleasure of his journey depends. This, therefore, must be my apology for saying so much about "inns and innholders."

Yesterday, I took a seat in one of the passage cars, on the new rail road, for Balston. The road now extends to Saratoga, and will, I venture to predict, become the most fashionable route, as indeed it is the most interesting, to the "Springs." The arrangements for carrying passengers are quite extensive. There are twenty-four cars belonging to the company—at once spacious, elegant, and convenient. They are twenty-four feet in length by eight in breadth, and sufficiently high within for the passengers to stand erect, the whole divided into three apartments; the seats of which are cushioned and backed with crimson morocco, trimmed

with coach lace; each apartment is surrounded by moveable panels, thus affording the comforts and facilities of either a close or open carriage, to suit the convenience of the passengers. The outside of the cars is painted of a beautiful fawn colour, with buff shading, painted in "picture panels," with rose, pink, and gold borders, and deep lake shading; the small mouldings of delicate stripes of vermilion and opaque black. Within the panels are "*transferred*" some of the most splendid productions of the ancient and modern masters, among which are copies from "Leonardo da Vinci," "Horace Vernet," "David," (the celebrated painter to Napoleon,) "Stuart," and many more of the modern school. The whole number of the subjects of the twenty-four cars, cannot fall far short of two hundred, as each car averages from six to ten subjects: among which may be enumerated, several copies from the antique, Napoleon crossing the Alps, the two splendid scenes in Byron's Mazeppa, the Hospital Mount St. Bernard, portraits of most of the distinguished men of our own country, among whom Washington (from Stuart's original) stands conspicuous, the wounded tiger, the avalanche, portraits of distinguished women, views of several of our popular steamboats, the rail road bridge near Philadelphia, and several views in the south. The "*tout ensemble*," is more like a moveable gal-

lery of the fine arts, than like a train of rail road cars. The springs of the cars are of Philadelphia make, and bear evenly. The "journals" are on a new plan, obviating all previous objections. The wheels are of cast iron, with patent rolled iron tire, well annealed and wrought, being put on the cart wheel while hot. The cooling of the tire, and the contraction of the iron, render it impossible to deviate from its place. The whole is then turned in a steam lathe by machine tools, thus rendering the circle of the wheel perfect from its centre, which is a great desideratum.

The cars were made in Troy by those famous coach builders, Gilbert, Veazie and Eaton, aided by Mr. Starbuck, a scientific machinist. Connected with the cars are two beautiful locomotives called the "Erie" and the "Champlain."

The rail road bridge, over which the cars cross the Hudson from Troy to Green Island, on their route to the Springs, is certainly a noble, substantial specimen of this kind of architecture. It is one thousand five hundred and twelve feet in length, thirty-four feet in width, and seventeen feet to the eaves. It is supported by stone abutments and piers. The sides are double lattice work, covered with boards on the outside. The floors of plank, and the roof shingled. It has thirty-two sky-lights or scuttles. The roof is supported in the centre

by a tier of pillars. The draw on the east end is one hundred and four feet long, twenty-four feet wide, and ten feet high. The side draw is fifty-two feet long and twenty-four feet wide. A cast iron pipe for conveying water from the main pipe of the Troy Water Works Co. extends along under the roof, the whole length of the bridge. It has sixteen hydrants, one being placed at every other skylight. After crossing this bridge, before reaching the village of Waterford, you pass three bridges besides the main one. The first crosses the Mohawk from Green Island to Vanschaick Island, and is four hundred and eighty-two feet long, the second crosses another sprout of the Mohawk from Vanschaick Island to Hawver Island, and is two hundred and two feet long. Three hundred and sixty feet further north, the third or minor bridge crosses the upper sprout of the Mohawk to Waterford, and is three hundred and twenty-six feet long. On Hawver Island may be seen the remains of an old fort thrown up in the Revolutionary war. On the Troy bridge there is a side walk for foot passengers, the rail road track, and a passage for common carriages. A bridge is shortly to be thrown across the Hudson from Green Island to West Troy, and the miserable horse-boats which now convey travellers across the Hudson will eventually fall into disuse.

The passage over the islands to Waterford, and indeed the whole route to Balston and Saratoga Springs, is really delightful. Then, too, the agents on the rail road are civil to the passengers, and attentive to the locomotives. The engineers are experienced, and, although "flying as it were on the wings of the wind," one feels perfectly safe from accident. A few miles above Waterford, we pass on our right Mechanicsville, a flourishing little manufacturing village; and within a mile or two of Bemus' Heights, rendered memorable as the scene of battle.

A brief historical sketch of this battle will not I presume, friend P., be uninteresting to your readers. It is at all events in place; and perhaps contains some facts not mentioned in the history of the American Revolution.

It seems that Gen. Burgoyne crossed the Hudson on the 13th and 14th of Sept. 1777, and on the 18th encamped in two lines, about two miles from the camp of Gen. Gates, "his left resting on the river, and his right extending at right angles to it across the low grounds about six hundred yards, to a range of steep and lofty heights occupied by his elite, having a creek or gully in his front."

The camp of Gen. Gates was in the form of a segment of a great circle. His right resting on the brow of the hill near the river, with which it

was connected by a deep entrenchment. The extremities were strengthened by strong batteries, and the interval by a breastwork constructed of trees, logs, and rails. The approach to the right, was almost impassable, and the left could not be reached without great difficulty.

The above sketch will give the reader something of an idea of the two armies on the day preceding the bloody and hotly contested action of the 19th.

The action of the 19th of September on Bemus' Heights, was accidental. Lieut. Col. Colburn, of the New Hampshire line, was detached, with a light party, to the west side of the river, for the purpose of observation. He reported about 8 o'clock, that the enemy had struck the greater part of their tents, and were ascending the heights in the direction of the American line. Col. Morgan was immediately directed to march with his rifle corps, to hang on their front and flank, and retard their march as much as possible.

At about half past 12 o'clock, the report of small arms announced that Morgan had fallen in with the enemy. The firing was of short duration. It was occasioned by falling in with a British picket, which was immediately forced. Pursuing the fugitives, he suddenly and unexpectedly fell in with the British line, and was instantly routed, with the loss of several officers and men taken prisoners.

An anecdote of Morgan, the rough but intrepid commander of the rifle corps, may be interesting in this place.

Col. (afterward General) Wilkinson, was at this time acting as Adjutant General of Gates' army, and attracted by the fire, he entered the wood. The first person he fell in with was Major Dearborn, who, with "great animation and a little warmth, was forming thirty or forty file of his infantry;" on turning to gain the camp, his ears were saluted by an uncommon noise; following the direction of the sound, he approached Col. Morgan, who, attended by only two men, was endeavouring with a *turkey call* to collect his dispersed troops. On coming up and accosting him, he burst into tears, and exclaimed, "I am ruined; Major M. ran on so rapidly with the front, that they were beaten before I could get up with the rear, and my men are scattered."

Two of the New Hampshire regiments (Cilly's and Scammel's) were then ordered out, with directions to fall too on the left of Morgan. This was done, and the action was renewed with considerable spirit till about 1 o'clock, though subject to occasional pauses, as the troops on either side shifted their ground. Five other regiments were successively brought on to the field, and about 3 o'clock the action became general, and from this period



until nightfall, the roar of musketry was incessant. Gen. Scammell's brigade was ordered out towards the close of the action, together with Marshal's regiment of Patterson's brigade and the Massachusetts line. Had they been brought out at an early hour, it is supposed that something decisive would have taken place. The force engaged in this action on the part of the Americans amounted to about 3,000 men: on the part of the British, as it appears from Burgoyne's own statement, about 3,500 men. Our loss in killed was reported at about 80, and 218 wounded, while that of the British, according to the statements of Lieut. Col. Kingsbury, (Burgoyne's Adjutant General,) amounted to 600 killed and wounded.

This action, it appears, was entirely accidental, and originated in a misconception of Gen. Gates of a movement of the enemy, which had reference merely to taking new ground on the heights in front of the great ravine.

Thus closely contested, it was more remarkable for the cool determination and gallantry displayed by the American soldiery, than for any other exhibition of tactical skill on either side. Says General Wilkinson:

"The theatre of action was such, that although the combatants changed ground a dozen times in the course of the day, the contest terminated on



the spot where it began. This may be explained in a few words. The British line was formed on an eminence in a thin pine wood, having before it Freeman's farm, an oblong field stretching from the centre towards the right; the ground in front sloping gently down to the verge of this field, which was bordered on the opposite side by a close wood; the sanguinary scene lay in the cleared ground, between the eminence occupied by the enemy, and the wood just described. The fire of our marksmen from this wood was too deadly to be withstood by the enemy, in line, when they gave way and broke; our men rushing from their covert pursued them to the eminence, where, having their flanks protected, they rallied, and charged in turn, drove us back into the wood, from whence a dreadful fire would again force them to fall back; and in this manner did the battle fluctuate, like the waves of a stormy sea, with alternate advantage for hours, without one moment's intermission. The British artillery fell into our possession at every charge, but we could neither turn the pieces upon the enemy, nor bring them off. The wood prevented the last, and the want of a match the first, as the lint stock was invariably carried off, and the rapidity of transitions did not allow us to provide one.

"The morning after the action I visited the wounded prisoners, who had been dressed, and dis-

covered a charming youth, not more than sixteen years old, lying among them, feeble, faint, pale, and stiff, in his gore. The delicacy of his aspect, and the quality of his clothing, attracted my attention, and on inquiry, I found that he was Ensign Philips. He told me he had fallen by a wound in his leg or thigh, and as he lay on the ground, was shot through the body by an army follower, a murderous villain, who avowed the deed; the moans of this helpless youth affected me to tears; I raised him from the straw on which he lay, took him in my arms, and removed him to a tent, where every comfort was provided for him; but his wounds were mortal, and he expired."

One fact in this place is worthy of notice, as showing on what a trivial circumstance the fate of an army or a nation sometimes depends.

On the morning of the action, a deserter from the enemy's camp came in, and stated that the entire British army was under arms, and that Gen. Burgoyne had given orders for the immediate attack of our lines, which, in consequence, were promptly manned, as well as circumstances would admit. An hour was passed in great anxiety, in expectation of the threatened attack; none however was made, and the troops were dismissed. Yet it appears that the information of the deserter was substantially correct. After the surrender of Bur-

goyne, it was stated by General Phillips that Burgoyne had determined to attack the left of the American line, with his whole force, on the morning preceding the action; that the army was formed, only waiting for the dispersion of the fog to commence, when General Frazier observed to General Burgoyne, that "the grenadiers and light infantry, who were to lead the attack, appeared fatigued by the duties of the preceding day, and that if he would suspend the operation until the next morning, he was persuaded they would carry the attack with more vivacity." This induced Burgoyne to defer it, and the order was countermanded. The same day a spy from Sir Henry Clinton reached Burgoyne, informing him of his expedition against the Highlands. This determined Gen. Burgoyne to postpone the attack, and wait for events. Had he carried his meditated attack into execution, it is very probable that the result would have been highly disastrous to the American arms, as our troops were quite exhausted from the operations of the preceding day; besides, our lines were not completed, and what was worse, the left wing, owing to some mismanagement, had been prevented from drawing ammunition. In point of numerical force, the two armies were about equal, but the advantage was decidedly with the British, as their troops were composed of veterans, while our men

were badly equipped, and were defective in discipline. Under these circumstances, we may well suppose, had the attack been made, that Burgoyne would have gained a decided victory, and that the convention of Saratoga, by which, a short time afterwards, he surrendered himself and army as prisoners of war, would not have taken place.

But to leave the field of action. The distance from Troy to Balston is about twenty-five miles. We left Troy at half past 2, and arrived at Balston at half past 4 P. M. Abating hinderances, the distance is, I am informed, usually performed in an hour and a half. Determined to return the same evening, my tarry at Balston was necessarily short.

I however visited the "*Sans Souci*," the fashionable house for visitors to the Balston Springs. Mr. Waters, the worthy proprietor of the establishment, I found busily employed in preparing for the summer campaign. The house is one of the largest, airiest, and most convenient in the country. It is three stories high, one hundred and sixty feet in length, with two back ranges of one hundred and fifty feet, and capable of accommodating one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty persons. There is a beautiful garden attached to it. Mr. W. is not wanting in capacity or disposition to cater for the hundreds who flock to his house du-

ring the summer. As an instance of this it may be mentioned, that he has made arrangements, in connexion with Mr. Hull of the Mansion House in Troy, to procure fresh from the lakes, perch and other choice fish.

Balston is rather ancient in its appearance. It contains about one thousand five hundred inhabitants. There are several churches, an Academy, a Female Seminary; and a weekly newspaper is published here. There are also two or three woollen manufactories in operation.

The village was chartered in 1807, and is directed by three trustees, who are chosen annually. The Balston Lake is situated about six miles from the village. It is five miles long and one in width. This beautiful lake, and the jaw-cracker creek, "Kayaderosseras," which flows along the east end of the village, is a great resort for sportsmen in the summer season.

But to return to Troy, (as I did after partaking of the medicinal waters of Balston.) We arrived at the Mansion House before dark, having since half past 2 P. M. travelled fifty miles, and enjoyed the varied beauties of a romantic and interesting section of country.

You have heard, friend P., of the "name and the fame" of Henry Burden. Well, his residence is about two miles from the city. Delightfully situ-

ated upon an eminence, which affords a view of a large extent of country, the most romantic and picturesque imaginable. By the taste of his amiable and accomplished lady, and the skill of a European gardener, the grounds adjacent to the Mansion House have been transformed from a barren waste, such as it was when Henry Hudson

“Frightened the Indian in his wild retreat,”

to an enchanting garden, where the roses of England, the thistle of Scotland, and the lilies of France, are taught to luxuriate together. At the bottom of the hill rolls, or rather leaps, by a succession of foaming cataracts, a rapid and narrow stream, which discharges its waters into the Hudson.

It is here that the most extensive iron works, which are to be found in the vicinity of the Hudson, during its whole course, are established. The manner in which the nails are manufactured, differs in no respect from similar establishments in New England. But the process by which spikes are produced is the invention of Mr. Burden, and it was this important improvement which first brought him into notice, and greatly augmented his pecuniary resources.

The next effort of his genius was the construction of the far-famed steamboat; the result of which is well known. This discouraging circumstance, to-

gether with the loss of time and money, which were very great, would have been sufficient to have entirely disheartened an ordinary mind. But in a single week, after the wreck of his steamboat, Mr. B. produced the model for the manufacture of horse shoes, which promises soon to yield an immense profit. Mr. Burden is now on a voyage to Europe, to procure letters patent for the exclusive use of his inventions there. Success attend every effort of his inventive cleverness.

While in Troy, I enjoyed the privilege extended to all strangers, of visiting the well-regulated and extensive reading rooms of the "Troy Young Men's Association." This association is composed of five hundred and fifty young men between the ages of fourteen and forty. Persons over forty are admitted as honorary members by paying \$5 per annum. The regular members pay \$2. The reading rooms are furnished with about one hundred and fifty principal newspapers and magazines, from every state in the Union, as well as from foreign countries. There is also connected with it a library of about twelve hundred volumes. Lectures are delivered before the members of the association from December to March, on moral, literary, and scientific subjects. A part of the members have formed a Debating Society. The association is incorporated, and can hold property to the



amount of \$30,000. Ladies are introduced, and not unfrequently visit the rooms in pleasant weather.

West Troy, directly opposite the city on the west side of the Hudson River, has but little to attract the attention of the traveller. The United States Arsenal, however, is located here, and there are several articles manufactured pretty extensively, such as stone-ware, steam engines, etc.

There is a fine smooth Macadamized turnpike on the west side of the river, from West Troy to Albany. This road was completed in 1831, and cost about \$100,000. An excellent line of accommodation stages leave Troy and Albany every half hour during the day. Passengers with their baggage are taken up and put down in any part of either city, for the trifling sum of twenty-five cents. The distance over the turnpike is six miles, and it runs parallel and in sight of the river and the great canal all the way. A steamboat, the John Mason, plies between Troy and Albany three or four times a day. But travellers generally prefer the pleasant route over the turnpike. There is a very neat public house on the road, where the stages stop, known as the half-way house. In the summer season, the citizens of the two cities find this a delightful resort or stopping place.

The facilities of travelling from Troy are quite numerous; besides the steamboats and the rail road,



stages leave for Castleton, Rutland, Manchester, Chester, Bennington, Brattleborough, Greenfield, Worcester, Lebanon Springs, Pittsfield, Boston, and for Whitehall via Sandy Hill, every day; and for Union Village to Whitehall, three times a week.

## LETTER XI.

*Revolutionary Reminiscences of the Hudson—Fort Edward—General Lyman—Story of the fate of Miss Jane M'Crea, etc.*

Troy, May 12, 1836.

DEAR P.—In my last from this place, I introduced a brief account of the battle of Bemus' Heights. No section of the country is, perhaps, more fraught with reminiscences of war than the "Hudson and its vicinity." Following the river about fifty miles north of Troy, you reach the village of Fort Edward. The fort was raised during the memorable war of 1775, for the defence of this point of the Hudson. It was originally called Fort Lyman, after General Lyman, a brave but neglected officer. About half a mile above Fort Edward stands the old pine tree which marks the spot where Miss Jane M'Crea was murdered by the Indians. The story of her fate, related by an anonymous pen, will bear repeating in this place. For it "has been a theme which eloquence and sensibility have alike contributed to dignify, and which has kindled in many a breast the emotions of a responsive sympathy. General Gates's sympathy in his letter to Burgoyne, although more ornate than forcible, and abounding more in bad taste than sim-

plicity or pathos, was suited to the feelings of the moment, and produced a lively impression in every part of America; and the glowing language of Burke, in one of his most celebrated speeches in the British Parliament, made the story of Jane M'Crea familiar to the European world."

This young lady was the daughter of a clergyman who died in New Jersey before the Revolution. Upon her father's death, she sought a home in the house of her brother, a respectable gentleman residing on the western bank of Hudson River, about four miles below Fort Edward. Here she formed an intimacy with a young man named David Jones, to whom it was understood she was engaged to be married. When the war broke out, Jones took the side of the royalists, went to Canada, received a commission, and was a captain or lieutenant among the provincials in Burgoyne's army.

Fort Edward was situated on the eastern margin of Hudson River, within a few yards of the water, and surrounded by a plain of considerable extent, which was cleared of wood and cultivated. On the road leading to the north, and near the foot of the hill, about one third of a mile from the fort, stood a house occupied by Mrs. M'Neil, a widow lady, and an acquaintance of Miss M'Crea, with whom she was staying as a visiter at the time the American army was in that neighbourhood. The

side of the hill was covered with a growth of bushes, and on its top, a quarter of a mile from the house, stood a large pine tree, near the root of which gushed out a perennial spring of water. A guard of one hundred men had been left at the fort, and a picket under Lieutenant Van Vechten was stationed in the woods on the hill a little beyond the pine tree.

Early one morning this picket guard was attacked by a party of Indians, rushing through the woods from different points at the same moment, and rending the air with their hideous yells. Lieut. Van Vechten and five others were killed and scalped, and four were wounded. Samuel Standish, one of the guard, whose post was near the pine tree, discharged his musket at the first Indian he saw, and ran down the hill towards the fort; but he had no sooner reached the plain, than three Indians who had pursued him, cut off his retreat, darted out of the bushes, fired, and wounded him in the foot. One of them sprang upon him, threw him to the ground, pinioned his arms, and then pushed him violently forward up the hill. He naturally made as much haste as he could, and in a short time they came to the spring, where several Indians were assembled.

Here Standish was left to himself, at a little distance from the spring and the pine tree, expecting

every moment to share the fate of his comrades, whose scalps were conspicuously displayed. A few minutes only had elapsed, when he saw a small party of the Indians ascending the hill, and with them Mrs. M'Neil and Miss M'Crea on foot. He knew them both, having often been at Mrs. M'Neil's house. The party had hardly joined the other Indians, when he perceived much agitation among them, high words and violent gestures, till at length they engaged in a furious quarrel, and beat one another with their muskets. In the midst of this fray, one of the chiefs, apparently in a paroxysm of rage, shot Miss M'Crea in the breast. She instantly fell and expired. Her hair was long and flowing. The same chief grasped it in his hand, seized his knife, and took off the scalp in such a manner as to include nearly the whole of the hair; then springing from the ground, he tossed it in the face of a young warrior, who stood near him watching the operation, brandished it in the air, and uttered a yell of savage exultation. When this was done the quarrel ceased; and, as the fort had already been alarmed, the Indians hurried away as quickly as possible to Gen. Frazier's encampment on the road to Fort Anne, taking with them Mrs. M'Neil and Samuel Standish.

The bodies of the slain were found by a party that went in pursuit, and were carried across the

river. They had been stripped of their clothing, and the body of Miss M'Crea was wounded in nine places, either by a scalping knife or a tomahawk. A messenger was despatched to convey the afflicting intelligence to her brother, who arrived soon afterward, took charge of his sister's remains, and had them interred on the east side of the river about three miles below the fort. The body of Lieut. Van Vechten was buried at the same time, and on the same spot.

History has preserved no facts by which we can at this day ascertain the reason why Miss M'Crea should remain as she did in so exposed and unprotected a situation. She had been reminded of her danger by the people at the fort. Tradition relates, however, and with seeming truth, that through some medium of communication she had promised her lover, probably by his advice, to remain in this place, until the approach of the British troops should afford an opportunity to join him, in company with her hostess and friend. It is said, that, when they saw the Indians coming to the house, they were at first frightened, and attempted to escape; but, as the Indians made signs of pacific intention, and one of them held up a letter intimating that it was to be opened, their fears were calmed and the letter was read. It was from Jones, and contained a request that they would put them-

selves under the charge of the Indians, whom he had sent for the purpose, and who would guard them in safety to the British camp. Unfortunately, two separate parties of Indians, or, at least, two chiefs acting independently of each other, had united in this enterprise, combining with it an attack of the picket guard. It is incredible that Jones should have known this part of the arrangement, or he would have foreseen the danger it threatened. When the prize was at their hands, the two chiefs quarrelled about the mode of dividing the rewards they were to receive; and, according to the Indian rule of settling disputes in the case of captives, one of them, in a wild fit of passion, killed the victim and secured the scalp. Nor is it the least shocking feature of the transaction, that the savage seemed not aware of his mission. Uninformed as to the motive of his employer for obtaining the person of the lady, or not comprehending it, he regarded her in the light of a prisoner, and supposed the scalp would be an acceptable trophy. Let it be imagined what were the feelings of the anxious lover, waiting with joyful anticipation the arrival of his intended bride, when this appalling proof of her death was presented to him. The innocent had suffered by the hand of cruelty and violence, which he had unconsciously armed; his most fondly cherished hopes were blasted, and a sting was planted in his soul,

which time and forgetfulness never could eradicate. His spirit was scathed and his heart broken. He lived but a few years, a prey to his own sad recollections, and sunk into the grave under the burden of his grief.

The remembrance of this melancholy tale is still cherished with a lively sympathy, by the people who dwell near the scene of its principal incidents. —The inhabitants of the village of Fort Edward, have lately removed the remains of Miss M'Crea from their obscure resting place, and deposited them in the public burial-ground. The ceremony was solemn and impressive. A procession of young men and maidens followed the relics, and wept in silence when the earth was again closed over them; thus exhibiting an honourable proof of sensibility and of respect for the dead. The little fountain still pours out its clear waters near the brow of the hill, and the venerable pine is yet standing in its ancient majesty, broken at the top and shorn of its branches by the winds and storms of half a century, but revered as marking the spot where youth and innocence were sacrificed in the tragical death of Jane M'Crea.\*

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\* Sparks Life of Gen. Arnold.



## LETTER XII.

*Master Lipsey's Boat—Revolutionary Incident—The Boat Club—The passing of a Steamboat—Cold Spring—Col. George P. Morris's Mansion—Scenery—Old Cro'-Nest—Magnificent Site—Description of Col. Morris's House—The Gardener of an English Earl—Mischiefs of Ignorance—Our Lady of Cold Spring—Lines for Music, etc.*

New York, 1835.

DEAR P.—In one of my excursions last summer upon the Hudson, I stopped at West-Point, but must now postpone a description of that place, as I immediately took possession of Master Lipsey's (the Charon of these parts) boat—a personage and a craft well known to all the sojourners at West-Point, and in which many a gay party from the south, and, in fact, from all quarters of the world, has sailed in the shadow of old Cro'-Nest, and danced over the glad waters of the green and glassy Hudson. In passing through the gorge, across which in the revolutionary war a chain was stretched to prevent the incursions of the British light vessels of war, and where reposes the rock hurled from its bold and threatening eminence by the giant arm of old Putnam himself, we encountered one of the airiest pleasure boats I have recently seen. It was manned by a crew in uniform white jackets,

and was, altogether, a neat and tasty affair. It is called the *Auriel*, and belongs to a club composed of the professors and officers of West Point, and the gentlemen of the vicinity. The exercise is conducive not only to the health of the members, but to the cultivation of good fellowship, and a generous and cordial hospitality. The river was alive with vessels of every description, and it was no easy matter to wind our way among the small-craft and sloops, beating and tacking under what is nautically termed a "cracking breeze." I counted more than sixty of these trim river craft between West-Point and Newburgh, in a distance of eight miles. The passing of the steamboats is an amusing scene, and the landing always creates a sensation among the "natives" and visitors. So many arrivals and departures constantly taking place, meetings of friends, and salutations from the passengers to those they recognise on the wharf, and the bustle of the porters, render it one of the liveliest incidents of the day. We crossed the wake of the North America, which is one of the most agreeable operations in the world to a person of steady nerves, but not so amusing to those who do not affect the chance, or, at all events, the apprehension of a capsize, inasmuch as the undulating motion occasioned by these large vessels, in the narrow pass of the Highlands, is mighty uncomfortable, and seems

never to subside. Escaping this peril, I arrived safe at Cold Spring, a little village that owes most of its prosperity to the foundry belonging to Mr. Gouvernier Kemble, at which nearly one hundred individuals are constantly employed. This gentleman is famed for his hospitality, which however I did not have an opportunity of enjoying, as I had determined on a visit to my old friend Col. George P. Morris, the editor of the New-York Mirror, a gentleman of whose friendship any one might be proud.

Col. Morris's house is built upon a plateau just above the village, and commands a picturesque, and *lake-like* view of the noble Hudson to the north, with the blue range of the distant Catskills bounding the horizon. In front you have old Cro'-Nest and his subject mountains, with their map of living verdure crowning their brows and sides—the scene of Rodman Drake's exquisite poem of the "Culprit Fay." To the south, it enjoys one of the finest and most uninterrupted views imaginable of West-Point, the plains, buildings, and Fort Putnam; and on a clear day, the parade of the cadets may be distinctly seen from the portico; and their music, echoed by a hundred hills, falls soothingly and pleasantly upon the ear.

Altogether, this is one of the most magnificent sites for a summer residence in the United States.

It possesses, in many respects, advantages even superior to those of West-Point; and if a good hotel, or comfortable boarding-houses were established here, it would vie with that spot as a summer retreat. I believe that it is or was contemplated by Mr. Samuel Gouverneur, one of the largest landholders in the neighbourhood, to build a house of this description on the bluff just below Cold Spring, which forms the narrowest part of the Highlands.

I am not going, after the manner of letter-writers in general, to furnish you with a catalogue of the exquisite paintings and busts, costly books, and luxurious appliances to the noble mansion of Col. Morris, nor do I intend to discuss the excellence of the *ragouts*, to dilate upon the unexceptionable qualities of the *chateau margout*, and least of all, to retail, *a la Willis*, the agreeable conversation that took place there among the hospitable and intellectual people, by whom the place was made so attractive to me. But I suppose it is no encroachment upon the canons of good breeding, to give you an idea of the house itself, briefly and succinctly. I understand it was built by John C. Hamilton, one of the sons of the late Gen. Hamilton, and the biographer of that illustrious man; and is one of the most conveniently constructed, spacious, and elegant mansions, within and without, above and below, that the skill of the architect

could have devised. The entrance hall is on a novel plan, and has excited much attention, for, like Washington's head-quarters in the immediate neighbourhood, (Newburgh,) it possesses multitudes of doors, and but one solitary window, yet it is light and airy and cool as a garden bower. The drawing-rooms and saloon front the river, and the ever-moving panorama of the Hudson is right before them, while on a moonlight evening the portico is one of the pleasantest stations to be conceived.

The grounds are well disposed, and susceptible of the highest improvement, and if the plan which the Colonel showed me on paper be carried into effect, his residence at Cold Spring will be a little nook stolen out of Paradise. I can't resist narrating a circumstance here, which shows the inconceivable stupidity of a foreign beautifier and layer out of grounds, who came here for that purpose, recommended as a man of taste, and as the ex-gardener of an English Earl. Reliance being implicitly placed upon his tact and skill, he received orders to exercise his accomplishments in his peculiar line to the best advantage—things were left to his discretion and responsibility, and he had uncontrolled and *ad libitum* authority to plant, to lay out, and dispose, as he listed, for two months last spring. Judge, friend P., of his employer's surprise and mortification, when he found that this time

had been employed by his *beautifier* and *radical reformer* in cutting down and laying waste almost every thing in the shape of a tree about the premises!

It is really astonishing how much mischief may be done in a little time by an ignorant person, even though he be the "gardener of an Earl," and the growth of years prostrated in one hour. The only consolation left for the proprietor was, that the trees, although lofty, were only cedars, and that the circumstance afforded opportunity for the display of his taste in arboriculture, by replacing them with others of a more ornamental, choice, and elegant description. At the present time, they are busy in transplanting full-grown and large-sized oaks, maples, and other forest trees, on the plan suggested and practised by a Scotch baronet named Stewart, and I have no doubt of the complete success of the experiment. In this event, the "Earl's gardener," without intending it, has unconsciously done good; and out of much evil, benefit will have been deduced, as all transplanters of trees will have a model before them, how most safely and judiciously to manage their operations.

But to leave the garden, the trees, and Col. Morris's hospitable mansion, which we did, at the time, most reluctantly, I will conclude this discursive and rambling epistle with some observations which I made upon this part of Hudson river, as adapted

more particularly for villas and country-seats. This river, it is useless again to state, is the greatest thoroughfare of the union. Its scenery throughout is magnificent, and in this particular region sublime. Health and happiness dwell among its hills, and every luxury that the earth can yield is wafted by its waters. It is within a few hours' journey to New York, and the facilities of access are unexampled in convenience, economy, and opportunity. The day is not distant, when the entire banks of the Hudson will be dotted with villas of the refined and elegant, but "up among these rocky cliffs," the Highlands, there are a few acres of table ground which ought to be improved, and which must soon be appropriated for the purpose I have mentioned, as the eye of "chaste and classic" taste could not select a more delicious and consummate position for the display of its elegant and graceful designs.

"Our Lady of Cold Spring," is the name of a classical and beautiful little Catholic edifice, situated on a high rock overhanging the Hudson. The traveller, passing by in the steamboats, cannot but be struck with its romantic beauty. Surrounded as it is by majestic mountains, and the beautiful Hudson, its location seems peculiarly well calculated to awaken sentiments of devout adoration.

But I conclude this letter abruptly (as, unless I



do so, I could linger for ever among those quiet and heavenly haunts of love and poetry) by transcribing a little metrical effusion, which I accidentally met with, and the authorship of which I understood is attributed to Col. Morris. It is "Lines for Music," and evidently written in the earthly paradise which I have attempted to describe.

O would that she were here,  
These hills and dales among,  
Where vocal groves are gayly mocked  
By echo's airy tongue,—  
Where jocund Nature smiles  
In all her gay attire,  
Amid deep-tangled wiles  
Of hawthorn and sweet-brier.  
O would that she were here,  
That fair and gentle thing,  
Whose words are musical as strains  
Breathed by the wind-harp's string.

O would that she were here,  
Where the free waters leap,  
Shouting in their joyousness,  
Adown the rocky steep,—  
Where rosy Zephyr lingers  
All the livelong day,  
With health upon his pinions,  
And gladness in his way.  
O would that she were here,  
Sure Eden's garden-plot  
Did not embrace more varied charms  
Than this romantic spot.



O would that she were here,  
Where frolic by the hours,  
Rife with the song of bee and bird,  
The perfume of the flowers,—  
Where beams of peace and love,  
And radiant beauty's glow,  
Are pictured in the sky above,  
And in the lake below.

O would that she were here—  
The nymphs of this bright scene,  
With song and dance and revelry,  
Would crown BIANCA queen.

Yours.

## LETTER XIII.

*Strictures on Albany—The Clergy—Historical Sketch of Albany—Head-Quarters of Gen. Lafayette—Mrs. Grant's description of Albany in olden time—Manner of living there—Hermitage—Gentle treatment of slaves among the Albanians—Consequent attachment of domestics, etc.*

Albany, May 20, 1836.

FRIEND P.—Albany, the crack city of the Hudson, is the oldest settlement save one in the United States.\* Considering its age and importance as a seat of government, the traveller expects to find a lion, but is soon undeceived, it being little more than a lion's whelp. There is an aristocracy founded upon two of the most contemptible of the instruments of power—money and party politics. Of the latter, I, as an administration man, would never complain, were it permitted to hold its appropriate place. But it is here the leaven affecting the whole lump. I object to it when it influences, in the least degree, the courtesies of life. Political opinion ought never to be the only passport to hospitality. The manners of the better classes are, at first, uniformly of the non-committal

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\* Jamestown, in Virginia, was settled in 1607, while Albany dates its origin in 1610.

sort. They appear to suspect you of an intention to pick their pockets, or take sides with their political opponents. Coming as I did, from New York, where hearts, like the merchandise, are out of doors, it operated like a cold bath in the month of December. But, thank Heaven, they are as jealous of each other as of strangers. The starting of a new project is the alarm for a whole swarm of little big men to look out for their rights, that is, in the vernacular language, to hold on upon their carefully accumulated stock of money and political power. There would be more pale faces at the loss of a vote, or a few dollars, than could be produced in New York by a tenth exhibition of the great conflagration.

The step from the sublime to the ridiculous has long since been taken on every subject. Even religion, which ought to be free from every foreign influence, and be permitted to move unconstrained in her own simple dignity and grace, is made to minister to the men in power. The manner in which the Rev. ——— is showed up, renders him a complete \*\*\*\*. To have heard and praised him, is the test both of your good sense and politeness. I have heard strangers, more than once, smart under the chafing given them on the subject, by a certain distinguished gentleman's family. Of the denomination to which he belongs, he is a truly

devoted minister. He possesses a simple and earnest piety, that always commands respect and esteem. His prayers, for fervour and directness, exceed any I have ever heard. But having said thus, you have said all. His eloquence is like a river of oil flowing on before a thirsty man. He may please, but never satisfies. He does not possess what his admirers claim, originality of mind. His storehouse is well supplied, by his indefatigable industry, from the arguments of abler men. He has eloquence, but it is not classical. It has been spoiled by fondling, till it has almost lost, what I think it once possessed, the freedom and boldness of nature in her wildest mood.

The Rev. Dr. S——, both in and out of the pulpit, is a truly interesting man. Had his *temperance* defamer in Boston, that renowned purifier of the "*Pigeon Stables*," and of acrostic memory, known the Doctor here, he would have restrained his powerful, but slanderous and malignant pen.\* He has the artlessness of a child, with the learning that classes him with our most distinguished men. His contributions to our stock of religious literature are invaluable.

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\* This gentleman, who has lately distinguished himself as the reformer of Dr. S. and other as good men, is no novice in the business, as the Roxbury Pigery, removed by his eloquence, can testify.

The Rev. Mr. P., the Rector of St. Paul's church, is an excellent preacher. The productions of his pen display the "ripe and good scholar." His style is at once chaste and classic, and at the same time condensed and pungent. Modesty, and a want of confidence in the powers of his mind, are great barriers to his fame. But with preachers and preaching, and with fault finding, I have done.

Looking over the first directory of Albany, I gather some items of the history of this city, which it may not be amiss to introduce. It seems that the first fort was built on an island below, but was abandoned in consequence of the frequency and height of the river floods. Fort Orange was erected in 1617, and a person by the name of Sebastian Croll, was the first commissary of the fort.

In 1629, a charter of liberties and exemptions for patroons, masters, and private individuals, who should plant colonies in New Netherlands, was granted by the States General of Holland. Under this charter, a purchase of lands was made in August, of the same year, for Kilian Rensselaer, a merchant of Amsterdam, the ancestor of the present Patroon's family.

The consequence and power of this individual, as a patentee, may be gleaned from the Dutch records in the secretary's office. He had a small fort of his own, and on one occasion lent some cannon

to the military commanders at Fort Orange. He had his sheriff, a fort at Bear Island, and his commandant there was known to have fired at the sloops which passed without saluting the fort. His residence, called the Rensselaerburg, was first at the island below the city. The commerce of Albany was principally with the savages, for beavers, in exchange for strouds, leggins, and rum. Brokers were employed by the inhabitants to purchase the skins, and they were natives or savages, as the demand or the competition made it necessary to obtain their aid. A court was held in the fort, consisting of the commissary and associates, duly appointed in Holland; and these had the exclusive jurisdiction in matters civil and criminal.

In 1664, it was captured from the Dutch by a force under Major Cartwright. Kalm, who visited the city after the charter had been granted by the English Governor Dongan, describes its appearance as being that of a small town, with two principal streets crossing each other, in one of which was placed all the public buildings. This will account for the great width of State street. It then contained the fort, a regular though slight stockade, the English church, the guard-house, the town-house, the Dutch church, and the market. It had a very rural appearance; each house having its

garden and shade trees. The situations on the water side were beautiful. There were three docks—the lower, middle, and upper. The lower was called the King's dock. The vessels were unloaded by the aid of canoes lashed together, and having a platform built upon them, where the goods were placed.

The alterations in the city have been astonishing. Where Fox street now crosses Pearl street, was a deep ravine, crossed by a bridge, and the descent to it was quite sudden. Other ravines crossed the streets running parallel to the river. These are now no longer visible. State street was much steeper. The road to Schenectady ran round the fort to the south and west, where the state offices now stand; and where the elegant mansions of two of the mayors are now situated, were banks of earth reaching up as far as the third story. Chapel street was full of stores and warehouses, and there the principal business was done. Then it was Barrack street. The Pasture was literally such, and now where Lydius street is laid out, was the regular encamping ground of the British armies, commanded by Amherst and Abercrombie.

Albany, during the revolutionary era, presented a singular appearance. It was stockaded; had its north and south gates; was a military post; was commanded by the gallant Lafayette, and Col.

Van Schaick, a distinguished officer and native of Albany; and was considered one of the most important stations in the United States. It was the key to the north and west, the point from which our armies threatened Montreal and Quebec, or the British posts on the lakes.

General Schuyler's, General Ten Broeck's, and the Patroon's mansions, convey to us a good idea of the taste of the builders, and the elegance of the modes of living among the wealthy and distinguished families of the olden time. A house in North Pearl street, near General Westerlo's residence, is distinguished as having been the headquarters of Lafayette, which, on his recent visit to the United States, he recognised as he passed rapidly through the town, from the circumstance of its having a curious brass knocker, an animal hanging down by its hind legs.

Mrs. Grant, in her "Memoirs of an American Lady,"\* gives, in her quaint but interesting style, the following description of Albany, the manner of living there in olden time, etc.

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\* The work was first published in London, in 1803. Mr. George Dearborn, of Gold street, has just published a new and beautiful edition of the work. Southey pronounced "her description of the breaking up of the ice in the Hudson" as "quite Homeric." Its "re-appearance must be a welcome event in the marshalling of American literature now in progress."



“The city of Albany was stretched along the banks of the Hudson; one very wide and long street lay parallel to the river, the intermediate space between it and the shore being occupied by gardens. A small, but steep hill rose above the centre of the town, on which stood a fort, intended (but very ill adapted) for the defence of the place, and of the neighbouring country. From the foot of this hill, another street was built, sloping pretty rapidly down till it joined the one before mentioned that ran along the river. This street was still wider than the other; it was only paved on each side, the middle being occupied by public edifices. These consisted of a market-place, or guard-house, a town hall, and the English and Dutch churches. The English church, belonging to the Episcopal persuasion, and in the diocese of the bishop of London, stood at the foot of the hill, at the upper end of the street. The Dutch church was situated at the bottom of the descent where the street terminated; two irregular streets, not so broad, but equally long, ran parallel to those, and a few even ones open between them. The town, in proportion to its population, occupied a great space of ground. This city, in short, was a kind of semi-rural establishment; every house had its garden, well, and a little green behind; before every door a tree was planted, rendered interesting by being coeval with

some beloved member of the family; many of their trees were of a prodigious size and extraordinary beauty, but without regularity, every one planting the kind that best pleased him, or which he thought would afford the most agreeable shade to the open portico at his door, which was surrounded by seats, and ascended by a few steps. It was in these that each domestic group was seated in summer evenings to enjoy the balmy twilight, or serenely clear moonlight. Each family had a cow, fed in common pasture at the end of the town. In the evening they returned all together, of their own accord, with their tinkling bells hung at their necks, along the wide and grassy street, to their wonted sheltering trees, to be milked at their masters' doors. Nothing could be more pleasing to a simple and benevolent mind, than to see thus, at one view, all the inhabitants of a town, which contained not one very rich or very poor, very knowing or very ignorant, very rude or very polished individual; to see all these children of nature enjoying in easy indolence, or social intercourse,

“ The cool, the fragrant, and the  *dusky* hour,”

clothed in the plainest habits, and with minds as undisguised and artless. These primitive beings were dispersed in porches, grouped according to similarity of years and inclinations. At one door

young matrons, at another the elders of the people, at a third the youths and maidens gayly chatting or singing together, while the children played round the trees, or waited near the cows, for the chief ingredient of their frugal supper, which they generally ate, sitting on the steps in the open air. This picture, so familiar to my imagination, has led me away from my purpose, which was to describe the rural economy and modes of living in this patriarchal city. At one end of the town, as I observed before, was a common pasture, where all the cattle belonging to the inhabitants grazed together. A never-failing instinct guided each home to her master's door in the evening, where, being treated with a few vegetables and a little salt, which is indispensably necessary for cattle in this country, they patiently waited the night; and after being milked in the morning, they went off in slow and regular procession to their pasture. At the other end of the town was a fertile plain along the river, three miles in length, and near a mile broad. This was all divided into lots, where every inhabitant raised Indian corn, sufficient for the food of two or three slaves, (the greatest number that each family ever possessed,) and for his horses, pigs, and poultry: their flour and other grain they purchased from farmers in the vicinity. Above the town, a long stretch to the westward was occupied first by

sandy hills, on which grew bilberries of uncommon size and flavour, in prodigious quantities; beyond, rise heights of a poor hungry soil, thinly covered with stunted pines, or dwarf oaks. Yet in this comparatively barren tract, there were several wild and picturesque spots, where small brooks, running in deep and rich bottoms, nourished on their banks every vegetable beauty; there, some of the most industrious early settlers had cleared the luxuriant wood from these charming little glens, and built neat cottages for their slaves, surrounded with little gardens and orchards, sheltered from every blast, wildly picturesque, and richly productive. Those small sequestered vales had an attraction that I know not how to describe, and which probably resulted from the air of deep repose that reigned there, and the strong contrast which they exhibited to the surrounding sterility. One of these was in my time inhabited by a hermit. He was a Frenchman, and did not seem to inspire much veneration among the Albanians. They imagined, or had heard, that he retired to that solitude in remorse for some fatal duel in which he had been engaged; and considered him as an idolater, because he had an image of the Virgin in his hut. I think he retired to Canada at last; but I remember being ready to worship him, for the sanctity with which my imagination invested him, and being cruelly

disappointed because I was not permitted to visit him. These cottages were in summer occupied by some of the negroes, who cultivated the grounds about them, and served as a place of joyful liberty to the children of the family on holydays, and a nursery for the young negroes, whom it was the custom to rear very tenderly, and instruct very carefully.

“In the society I am describing, even the dark aspect of slavery was softened into a smile. And I must, in justice to the best possible masters, say, that a great deal of that tranquillity and comfort, to call them by no higher names, which distinguish this society from all others, was owing to the relation between master and servant being better understood here than in any other place. Let me not be detested as an advocate for slavery, when I say, that I think I have never seen people so happy in servitude as the domestics of the Albanians. One reason was, (for I do not now speak of the virtues of their masters,) that each family had few of them, and that there were no field negroes. They would remind one of Abraham’s servants, who were all born in the house, which was exactly their case. They were baptized too, and shared the same religious instruction with the children of the family; and, for the first years, there was little or no difference with regard to food or clothing, between their children and those of their masters.

“ When a negro woman’s child attained the age of three years, the first New Year’s day after, it was solemnly presented to a son or daughter, or other young relative of the family, who was of the same sex with the child so presented. The child to whom the young negro was given, immediately presented it with some piece of money and a pair of shoes; and from that day, the strongest attachment subsisted between the domestic and the destined owner. I have nowhere met with instances of friendship more tender and generous, than that which here subsisted between the slaves and their masters and mistresses. Extraordinary proofs of them have been often given in the course of hunting or Indian trading, when a young man and his slave have gone to the trackless woods together, in the cases of fits of the ague, loss of a canoe, and other casualties happening near hostile Indians. The slave has been known, at the imminent risk of his life, to carry his disabled master through trackless woods with labour and fidelity scarce credible; and the master has been equally tender on similar occasions, of the humble friend who stuck closer than a brother; who was baptized with the same baptism, nurtured under the same roof, and often rocked in the same cradle with himself. These gifts of domestics to the younger members of the family were not irrevocable; yet they were

very rarely withdrawn. If the kitchen family did not increase in proportion to that of the master, young children were purchased from some family where they abounded, to furnish those attached servants to the rising progeny. They were never sold without consulting their mother, who, if expert and sagacious, had a great deal to say in the family, and would not allow her child to go into any family with whose domestics she was not acquainted. These negro women piqued themselves on teaching their children to be excellent servants, well knowing servitude to be their lot for life, and that it could only be sweetened by making themselves particularly useful, and excelling in their department. If they did their work well, it is astonishing, when I recollect it, what liberty of speech was allowed to those active and prudent mothers. They would chide, reprove, and expostulate, in a manner that we would not endure from our hired servants; and sometimes exert fully as much authority over the children of the family as the parents, conscious that they were entirely in their power. They did not crush freedom of speech and opinion in those, by whom they knew they were beloved, and who watched with incessant care over their interest and comfort. Affectionate and faithful as these home-bred servants were in general, there were some instances (but very few) of those who, through levity



of mind, or a love of liquor, or finery, betrayed their trust, or habitually neglected their duty. In these cases, after every means had been used to reform them, no severe punishments were inflicted at home. But the terrible sentence, which they dreaded worse than death, was passed—they were sold to Jamaica. The necessity of doing this was bewailed by the whole family as a most dreadful calamity, and the culprit was carefully watched on his way to New York, lest he should evade the sentence by self-destruction.

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“Amidst all this mild and really tender indulgence to their negroes, these colonists had not the smallest scruple of conscience with regard to the right by which they held them in subjection. Had that been the case, their singular humanity would have been incompatible with continued injustice. But the truth is, that of law, the generality of those people knew little; and of philosophy, nothing at all. They sought their code of morality in the Bible, and there, imagined they found this hapless race condemned to perpetual slavery; and thought nothing remained for them but to lighten the chains of their fellow Christians, after having made them such. This I neither “extenuate,” nor “set down in malice,” but merely record the fact. At the same time, it is but justice to record also a singu-



lar instance of moral delicacy, distinguishing this settlement from every other in the like circumstances, though, from their simple and kindly modes of life, they were from infancy in habits of familiarity with these humble friends, yet being early taught that nature had placed between them a barrier, which it was in a high degree criminal and disgraceful to pass, they considered a mixture of such distinct races with abhorrence, as a violation of her laws. This greatly conduced to the preservation of family happiness and concord. An ambiguous race, which the law does not acknowledge; and who (if they have any moral sense, must be as much ashamed of their parents as these last are of them) are certainly a dangerous, because degraded part of the community. How much more so must be those unfortunate beings, who stand in the predicament of the bat in the fable, whom both birds and beasts disowned? I am sorry to say that the progress of the British army, when it arrived, might be traced by a spurious and ambiguous race of this kind. But of a mulatto born before their arrival, I only remember a single instance; and from the regret and wonder it occasioned, considered it as singular. Colonel Schuyler, of whom I am to speak, had a relation so weak and defective in capacity, that he never was intrusted with any thing of his own, and lived an idle bachelor about the

family. In process of time, a favourite negro woman, to the great offence and scandal of the family, bore a child to him, whose colour gave testimony to the relation. The boy was carefully educated; and when he grew up, a farm was allotted to him well stocked and fertile, but 'in depth of woods embraced,' about two miles back from the family seat. A destitute white woman, who had somehow wandered from the older colonies, was induced to marry him; and all the branches of the family thought it incumbent on them, now and then, to pay a quiet visit to Chalk, (for so, for some unknown reason, they always called him.) I have been in Chalk's house myself, and a most comfortable abode it was; but considered him as a mysterious and anomalous being.

"I have dwelt the longer on this singular instance of slavery, existing devoid of its attendant horrors, because the fidelity and affection resulting from a bond of union so early formed between master and servant, contributed so very much to the safety of individuals, as well as the general comfort of society, as will hereafter appear.

"The foundations, both of friendship and still tenderer attachments, were here laid very early, by an institution which I always thought had been peculiar to Albany, till I found in Dr. Moore's *View of Society on the Continent*, an account of a

similar custom subsisting in Geneva. The children of the town were all divided into companies, as they called them, from five or six years of age, till they became marriageable. How those companies first originated, or what were their exact regulations, I cannot say ; though I, belonging to none, occasionally mixed with several, yet always as a stranger, though I spoke their current language fluently. Every company contained as many boys as girls. But I do not know that there was any limited number ; only this I recollect, that a boy and girl of each company, who were older, cleverer, or had some other pre-eminence above the rest, were called heads of the company, and, as such, obeyed by the others. Whether they were voted in, or attained their pre-eminence by a tacit acknowledgment of their superiority, I knew not ; but however it was attained, it was never disputed. The companies of little children had also their heads. All the children of the same age were not in one company ; there were at least three or four of equal ages, who had a strong rivalry with each other ; and children of different ages, in the same family, belonged to different companies. Wherever there is human nature, there will be a degree of emulation, strife, and a desire to lessen others, that we may exalt ourselves. Dispassionate as my friends comparatively were, and bred up in the highest attainable

candour and innocence, they regarded the company most in competition with their own, with a degree of jealous animosity. Each company, at a certain time of the year, went in a body to the hills, to gather a particular kind of berries. It was a sort of annual festival, attended with religious punctuality. Every company had a uniform for this purpose; that is to say, very pretty light baskets made by the Indians, with lids and handles, which hung over the arm, and were adorned with various colours. One company would never allow the least degree of taste to the other in this instance; and was sure to vent its whole stock of spleen in decrying the rival baskets. Nor would they ever admit, that the rival company gathered near so much fruit on these excursions as they did. The parents of these children seemed very much to encourage this manner of marshalling and dividing themselves. Every child was permitted to entertain the whole company on its birthday, and once besides, during winter and spring. The master and mistress of the family always were bound to go from home on these occasions, while some old domestic was left to attend and watch over them, with an ample provision of tea, chocolate, preserved and dried fruits, nuts, and cakes of various kinds, to which was added cider or a syllabub, for these young friends met at four, and did not part till nine

or ten, and amused themselves with the utmost gayety and freedom, in any way their fancy dictated. Other children or young people visit occasionally, and are civilly treated, but they admit of no person that does not belong to the company. The consequence of these exclusive and early intimacies was, that, grown up, it was reckoned a sort of apostacy to marry out of one's company, and indeed, it did not often happen. The girls, from the example of their mothers, rather than any compulsion, became very early, notable and industrious, being constantly employed in knitting stockings, and making clothes for the family and slaves: they even made all the boys' clothes. This was the more necessary, as all articles of clothing were extremely dear. Though all the necessaries of life, and some luxuries, abounded, money as yet was a scarce commodity. This industry was the more to be admired, as children were here indulged to a degree that, in our vitiated state of society, would have rendered them good for nothing. But there, where ambition, vanity, and the more turbulent passions were scarce awakened; where pride, founded on birth, or any external pre-eminence, was hardly known; and where the affections flourished fair and vigorous, unchecked by the thorns and thistles with which our minds are cursed in a more advanced state of refinement; affection restrained pa-

rents from keeping their children at a distance, and inflicting harsh punishments. But then they did not treat them like apes or parrots, by teaching them to talk with borrowed words and ideas, and afterward gratifying their own vanity by exhibiting these premature wonders to company, or repeating their sayings. They were tenderly cherished, and early taught that they owed all their enjoyments to the divine source of beneficence, to whom they were finally accountable for their actions; for the rest, they were very much left to nature, and permitted to range about at full liberty in their earliest years, covered in summer with some slight and cheap garb, which merely kept the sun from them, and in winter with some warm habit, in which convenience only was consulted. Their dress of ceremony was never put on but when their company assembled. They were extremely fond of their children; but, luckily for the latter, never dreamed of being vain of their immature wit and parts, which accounts, in some measure, for the great scarcity of coxcombs among them. The children returned the fondness of their parents with such tender affection, that they feared giving them pain as much as ours do punishment, and very rarely wounded their feelings by neglect, or rude answers. Yet the boys were often wilful and giddy

at a certain age, the girls being sooner tamed and domesticated.

“These youths were apt, whenever they could carry a gun, (which they did at a very early period,) to follow some favourite negro to the woods, and, while he was employed in felling trees, range the whole day in search of game, to the neglect of all intellectual improvement, and contract a love of savage liberty, which might, and in some instances did, degenerate into licentious and idle habits. Indeed, there were three stated periods in the year, when, for a few days, young and old, masters and slaves, were abandoned to unruly enjoyment, and neglected every serious occupation for pursuits of this nature.”

## LETTER XIV.

*Academies and Common Schools—Albany Academy for Boys—Dr. Beck—The Female Academy—Introduced by Mr. Crittenton to the different Departments—The plan of Instruction—Dr. Barber's System of Elocution—"The Language of the Flowers," a poetical effusion from a young Lady of the Academy—Description of the Building—Location, etc.—The Baptist Church—The old Capitol—Architectural description of the new State Hall—Of St. Paul's Church—South Dutch Church—The Old Stone Pulpit—North Dutch Church.*

Albany, June 1, 1836.

FRIEND P.—No state in the union surpasses New York, in the liberal provisions made for private education. There is scarcely a town or village, on the borders of the Hudson, that is not provided with one or more Academies, High Schools, or other institutions of learning, which are liberally supported, and generally well managed. It is in the common school system that we are deficient. The rich and the middling classes are provided for while the poor are passed by, or almost entirely neglected. In New England, and particularly in Massachusetts, the common schools are of an elevated character, and are attended by all classes. The children of the rich and the poor meet together; they enjoy similar privileges and advan-



tages. In New York, no person of ordinary means would think of sending his children to a free school. The number is small in proportion to the population; and were he ever so republican in his views, he would feel that he was depriving others, less able than himself, of the means of education. He therefore sends them to an Academy, and takes little or no interest in the management of the free schools.

But efforts, I am happy to say, are being made to improve our common school system; and as New York is behind no state in splendid private institutions of learning, it will not, I trust, be long before she will at least equal any, in the number and excellence of her common schools.

There are in Albany two Academies, one for boys, and the other for girls, which, I honestly believe, are unsurpassed by any similar institutions in the country. The Boys' Academy has been under the management of Dr. T. R. Beck, since 1817. It has been justly remarked of this institution, that, in every thing but the name, it is on an equality with many of the colleges of our country. The building is considered the finest proportioned of any in the state. Dr. Beck, the principal, has distinguished himself as an author. His address, delivered in 1813, before the Society of Arts in Albany, contains the earliest systematic account of the

minerals of our country. This address was published, and obtained for the author the meed of well earned praise. His work on the "Elements of Medical Jurisprudence," on its appearance some years since, created considerable excitement in England and America; it aroused public attention to a long neglected subject, and was noticed in terms of high commendation in the "Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal." It has been translated into German, and become the text-book on this subject, in the various Medical Colleges of Great Britain. Dr. Beck is one of the founders of the Albany Institute, "a scientific and literary association, which has already published the first volume of its transactions, highly creditable to itself and its members."\*

A few days since I visited the Female Academy, and was politely introduced to the different departments by the worthy principal, Mr. Crittenton, and his assistant, the Rev. Robert McKee. Mr. C. has grown up with the institution, and appears to be enthusiastically devoted to it. The Academy is divided into six departments, exclusive of the classes composed of those scholars from each of the higher departments, who are pursuing the study of the French and Spanish languages, Natural History,

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\* See "National Portrait Gallery," the editor of which has very properly introduced a portrait of Dr. Beck.

Chemistry, and Botany. It appears to be of a useful and practical character. The studies pursued, and the arrangement of the departments, contribute to this end, as the proficiency of the great number of young ladies amply demonstrates. The textbook of the science taught, is the basis of the instruction to be communicated, and the students are required to give extemporaneous illustrations of every important principle in the science under consideration, and also to give a general as well as a particular analysis of the author.

The general direction of the Institution is committed to a Principal; besides, to each department there is attached a permanent teacher; and whenever the number of pupils renders it expedient, the department is divided, and a teacher appointed to each division. The teachers of Penmanship devote their time to the departments in rotation. Lectures are given in the winter terms on Chemistry and Experimental Philosophy; in the summer terms, on Botany and Geology, by the Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and on Biblical Antiquities, by the President.

Instruction in Rhetoric and Composition, and in Sacred Music, is given by the respective Professors of these branches.

Dr. Jonathan Barber, of Harvard College, has lately been appointed Professor of Elocution and

Composition in this institution. He has endeavoured, and with success I am informed, to impress upon the minds of the young ladies, the importance of *correct* and *impressive* reading. Dr. Barber holds a high rank as an Elocutionist, but I advise him by all means to abandon Phrenology, a science which he is but illy adapted to teach. I consider his system of elocution really excellent, and I agree with the Regents in their report, that his mode of instruction is calculated to ensure a distinct and impressive utterance, and is not chargeable, as conducted by himself, with any tendency to produce unnatural or affected reading; that it is adapted to improve the physical powers of the voice, and give a distinct enunciation, which are particularly insisted on as necessary preliminaries to the higher grace of expression at which it aims; that it involves also an analysis of the meaning and spirit of written language, with a view to its expression by the voice, by which an intelligent and attentive pupil may improve at the same time his powers of *criticism* and *composition*, thus exercising an important influence in the improvement of the mind as well as of the voice.

The principal, Mr. Crittenton, read to me specimens of prose composition, which would have been creditable to a practised and even classic writer. The muses, too, find worshippers among the

fair daughters of this temple of learning. The effusions of two or three, at least, of the scholars, add to the value and interest of a literary periodical\* published here. The principal favoured me with two articles of poetry from a beautiful girl† in her sixteenth year. One of these pieces possesses so much of the true spirit of poetry, that I cannot (especially as it has not been published) resist the temptation of introducing it in this place. The thoughts, if not original, are pure, and the language is simple and beautiful. The fair author has studied nature attentively, for one of her years, and with a poet's feelings; like the bee, she educes good from the flowers. It is called

“THE LANGUAGE OF THE FLOWERS.”

How is the book of Nature filled  
With lessons that we all may learn !  
What precious precepts are instilled  
As each successive page we turn !

I love to walk at dawn of day,  
With open eye, and ear, and heart;  
To list to what the flowers say,  
And learn the lessons they impart.

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\* The *Zodiac*, a monthly Magazine, conducted with ability by Mr. Bloodgood, and published by Erastus Perry.

† Miss M. E. Gould.

For flowers have a *voice* for me ;  
They many a holy lesson teach ;  
And better surely I should be  
If I but *practised* all and each.

The fragrant herb on which I tread,  
Although I crush it to the ground,  
Will, as it raises up its head,  
With *incense* strew the air around.

And thus I learn that Gratitude  
Should always in my heart abound ;  
And, that for *evil*, *greater good*  
Should always in return be found.

The violet, with azure eye,  
Says, strive not in this world to shine ;  
Far from its vain allurements fly,  
And let humility be thine.

The daisy, with its velvet leaf,  
Its rays of purple, disk of gold,  
Says, " I am glorious, yet how brief !  
" In me a type of life behold."

A flower has language in its bloom,  
And when it withers, droops, and dies,  
It says, You hasten to the tomb ;  
Prepare for death—Be early wise.

Few cities in our country have more splendid edifices than Albany. It is a matter of consolation, after my perhaps too harsh delineation of character in a former epistle, to find something to praise.

The Female Academy of which I have been

speaking, is really a beautiful and classical edifice. Its location is upon the west side of North Pearl street, nearly equi-distant from Maiden lane and Steuben street. It commands a capital view of the eastern part of the city and opposite shore of the Hudson.

The plan of the building is about sixty-five feet by seventy-seven, including the portico, and the height about fifty-five feet, containing in all four stories and a cellar. The four stories are divided into sixteen spacious rooms; with halls sufficient for the accommodation of the staircases, and communications to the several apartments. The front faces to the east, and is ornamented with a beautiful *Hexastyle* portico of the Ionic order, which for sublimity of effect, and taste in arrangement, is not surpassed by any in the United States. The proportions of the columns, capitals, bases, and entablature, are taken from the temple on the *Ilissus*, the most beautiful example of the Ionic among the remains of antiquity. A flight of six steps of marble supports the colonnade; and this elevation, the great length of the columns, (which are forty feet,) the bold and lofty entablature, so well adapted to this order, give a majesty and effect to the front which can only be duly appreciated by a critical examination. The angles are finished with *antæ*; and the ceiling of the *pronaos* or vestibule formed



into a single panel, surrounded with an appropriate entablature.

The arrangement of the front windows, dividing the front into two stories instead of four, is judicious. If the front had been perforated for four tiers of windows, its architectural beauty would have been much impaired; but by lengthening the windows, so that one serves to light two stories, as has been done, and throwing a transom across them at the intermediate floors, ornamented with Grecian fret, the beauty of the whole has been increased.

The principal entrance into the interior, is from the vestibule above mentioned. The door is quite plain, no ornament being admitted which does not strictly accord with the general character of the front. The entrance is, nevertheless, spacious and convenient, and corresponds well with the Venitian windows above. A bold, well constructed staircase, ascending to the fourth story, is presented immediately on entering the lower hall, and though divested of all fantastic ornament, it will be much admired on account of its strength and convenience, and the durable quality of the materials with which it is constructed.

The finish of the rooms (the Exhibition room excepted) is plain, and of Grecian detail; and while all superfluous ornament has been studiously avoid-



ed, strength, boldness, and propriety have been kept steadily in view.

The Chapel exhibits a slight departure from that plainness of style which is a marked feature in the general finish of this edifice. But this slight variation creates no confusion. It seems in harmony with the rest; and while the shade of difference is so small as scarcely to be noticed, you are presented with the most classically finished room in this city, and one probably not surpassed by any in the state. This room is thirty-seven by sixty-one feet, the ceiling about seventeen feet high, and the entrance by two spacious doors on the east side. It is lighted by a range of windows along the west side; and the walls of the opposite side and end have recesses corresponding in number and location with the windows, which preserve a rigid symmetry as regards the various openings. The doors, windows, and recesses, are finished with plain casings, having pedimental lintels crowned with carved mouldings. The plainness of the face of the casings is relieved by pateres, or rosettes, a fashionable and judicious ornament much used by the architects of antiquity. The antæ and entablature with which this room is ornamented, are in imitation of those of the *Erectheum*, and cannot fail to attract particular attention. They exhibit a highly finished specimen of the Grecian Ionic, and display a

judicious use of ornament without profusion; and if this specimen of the Ionic order be contrasted with that used in the front portico, it will be readily conceded, that though the latter, on account of its boldness, should have preference in external decoration, it must yield the palm to the former for internal finish.

The Baptist Church, on the same side of North Pearl street, and but a few doors from the Academy, gives a fine appearance to North Pearl street. The pediments of both buildings projecting at suitable distances from each other, enhance the effect, by relieving the monotony of the long line of dwelling houses in the neighbourhood, without materially obstructing the view of the whole, while they give to them the appearance of one construction.

The Capitol is situated one hundred and twenty feet above the level of the Hudson. It cost \$120,000. It is a substantial stone edifice of one hundred and fifty feet in length, ninety feet in breadth, fifty feet in height, consisting of two stories and a basement. The east part is adorned with a portico of the Ionic order, having four columns, three feet and eight inches in diameter, and thirty-three feet in height. In the hall of the Representatives and the Senate chamber, I noticed portraits of Washington, and of several of the governors of the state.

The State Hall, which is to supply the place of the old Capitol, now nearly completed, will be a

magnificent edifice. It covers an area of one hundred and thirty-eight by eighty-eight feet; and contains four stories: the largest sides running nearly north and south, and the principal front facing west, towards the Academy park, and separated from it by Eagle street. The materials used in the construction are brick and stone, and the exterior is to be faced with cut stone from Mount Pleasant. The ceilings are to be arched with brick, which arches are to support the floors of the several stories, rendering the whole fire-proof. The roof is to be covered with copper. The walls are made unusually thick, in order to resist the pressure of the internal arches and floors; and additional strength is gained by strong iron anchors at each floor, running longitudinally and transversely, and firmly leaded into the external walls.

The principal and second stories are ornamented, externally, with Grecian antæ, which rests upon the projecting die of the building, and extends upwards to the attic story, and which supports the entablature extending round the building at the upper termination of the two principal stories. The west front is to be ornamented by a well proportioned portico, comprising six Grecian Ionic columns, supported by the steps and platforms at the principal entrance, and surmounted by suitable proportioned entablature and pediment.

The east side will be ornamented by a similar pediment, supported by antæ. A neat cornice terminates the attic story, surmounted by the parapet, which is intended to conceal the roof.

A hemispherical dome, of forty feet diameter, containing the sash through which the light passes to the rotunda, terminates the upper part of the building.

The basement story is to contain six rooms of twenty-two by thirty-three feet, and two dark rooms of the same dimensions, suitable for wood and coal; also, two halls of twenty-two by thirty-three feet, and two of ten by fifteen feet, and an area under the rotunda in the centre of the building, of thirty-three feet diameter. The basement story is fourteen feet high, including the arches and floors.

The principal story contains six rooms of twenty-two by thirty-three feet, one room thirty-three by forty-seven feet, two rooms of thirteen by twelve feet, two halls ten by forty-five feet, and a hall of twenty-two by thirty-three feet; which latter is at the principal entrance, and contains the staircases, and the rotunda, which is thirty-three feet diameter.

The second and third stories each, contain nine rooms of twenty-two by thirty-three feet, a hall of twenty-two by thirty-three feet, and two halls of ten by forty-five feet, and the rotunda of thirty-

three feet diameter. The principal and second stories, including the floors and arches, will occupy twenty-two feet each in height; the attic story will be fourteen feet in the clear. The whole height of the building, above the side-walk at the west front, will be about sixty-five feet; the declivity of the ground eastward, will increase the height of the east side to about seventy-four feet. I am not aware that any appropriation of the rooms has been made as regards the different public offices; it is probable, however, that the large room, and two of those of twenty-two by thirty-three feet, will be required by the comptroller, for the business connected with his office; two will be required by the secretary; the attorney-general, the treasurer, surveyor-general, the adjutant-general, register in chancery, and the clerk of the supreme court, will each require one; leaving four for future exigencies of the state.

The interior is to be furnished in a plain style, in all respects suited to the purpose of public offices.

The rotunda will have an estrade or gallery, extending round it at the second and third story floors, and enclosed by iron railings, to afford the necessary communications between the hall, which centre at that point. It is probable that iron, in place of stone, will be used in constructing the principal

staircases, which commence at the right and left of the hall, near the principal entrance, and terminate in the third story.

St. Paul's Church, at the corner of South Ferry and Dallias streets, is a fine specimen of the Gothic style of architecture. It is eighty-four feet long, sixty-two wide; the height of the walls to the cornice is thirty-two feet, with a semi-octagonal vestibule projecting sixteen feet, and rising to the front pediment of the main roof. The building is of rough unwrought stone, (from two to three and a half feet thick.) The design is from an ancient Gothic temple. The original plan embraces the erection of a stone tower in the rear, of twenty-two feet square, elevated two sections above the belfry; to be surmounted with turrets to correspond with those on the main building. There are five windows on each side, and two in front, supported by centre ends, diverging at the head, so as to form three distinct Gothic arches to the casements and frames of each window. The mullions are diagonally disposed, and contain glass of five and a quarter inches square. The angles of the walls, and the partition wall at the landing of the gallery stairs, are supported by buttresses of two feet square; having in each three abutments, capped with cut stone, and surmounted with quadrangular Gothic pinnacles. The nave is finished with a

deep Gothic frieze and cornice, and the parapet carried up in the form of battlements.

On the right and left of the entrance way, are niches prepared for statuary. The front door is ten feet wide, on each side of which are columns supporting the arch of a window above the impost of the door. The naves of the vestibule roof are finished with cornice and chain work, and the angles surmounted with pinnacles.

The interior finish is also Gothic, painted in imitation of oak. Below are one hundred and twenty-eight lens, and sixty-six in the gallery. The screen is twenty-four feet wide, supported by four octagonal Gothic columns, in panel work, and rising about eighteen feet from the chancel floor. The columns are finished at the top with pinnacles, ornamented and enriched with carved leaves and vines; in the centre of the screen, and immediately over the pulpit, there rises a pediment supported by clustered columns and an arch; the pediment is also surmounted with a richly ornamented pinnacle extending to the ceiling, and standing in relief, in a niche prepared to receive it. The top of the screen and basis of the pinnacle are finished with castellated battlements, and the panel rests in quatre foils.

The South Dutch Church, situated between Hudson and Beaver streets, is a superb edifice, ex-



hibiting one of the finest specimens in the art of building to be found in Albany. It cost about \$100,000, and is the property of the Dutch Reformed congregations. The entire pulpit of the old stone church of this society, founded in 1656, was brought over from Holland, and though the edifice is demolished, yet that identical pulpit is still in existence. It serves the same purpose in our day that it did upwards of a century and a half ago.

The North Dutch Church, on the west side of Pearl street, has been erected many years, and belongs to the same congregation. It is a large Greek edifice, well proportioned; it has two steeples, and cost about \$50,000.

Yours, &c.



## LETTER XV.

*Revisit Poughkeepsie—Rapid Progress of Improvement—New Silk Factory—Inventive genius of Gen. Harvey—Patent Screw Company—Coining Money—Patent Saw for felling trees—Patent Stock Frames—Advantages of Poughkeepsie, etc.—Report of the Inspectors of grain—Dutchess Plains—Scenery—Poetry—Ride to Hyde Park—Derivation of the name—The late Dr. Hosack's place—Churches and population—Cultivated grounds—Death of Dr. Hosack, etc.*

Poughkeepsie, June 2, 1836.

FRIEND P.—It is some months since I visited this most thriving village; and the progress of improvement has been so rapid since, that it seems years rather than months. Accompanied by my intelligent young friend, Hatch, of the Poughkeepsie Hotel, I rode over almost every part of the village, and was surprised at the number of new streets and squares, which were being laid out and graded under the eye of the “improvement party,” as it is aptly termed. Preparations appear to be making for a constantly progressive, and even rapid increase of population; and the plans for manufacturing companies seem to warrant it.\* The ex-

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\* The following remarks from the Poughkeepsie Eagle, give a pretty correct idea of the disposition of the inhabitants generally, to receive new-comers. It speaks, at least, the

tensive silk factory, owned by a company with a capital of \$200,000, is completed, and nearly ready to commence operations. Gen. Harvey, a skilful machinist, and the inventor of some half score of "Yankee contrivances," has got up a screw company, with a capital of \$200,000, which promises not a little towards the future prospects of the place. The screws are made by the machinery of Gen. H.'s invention, and with astonishing facility. The whole being accomplished by three rapid applications of the machinery. The first cuts the screw

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language and sentiments of the "improvement party" on this head.

"We repeat this remark, that a hearty welcome should be extended to every new-comer, whatever be his business or calling. We do so because, in this respect, our town has got the name, whether justly or not we will not pretend to say, of being rather chary in our favours; and because, if true, it does not tend to any public advantage. A stranger meeting with a cold salutation, or with silent neglect, and who has to encounter those narrow and aristocratic prejudices which circumscribe the social circle and exclude him from its enjoyments, will not find his situation so pleasant as to make it an object to remain here, if there are other places where he can do as well in business. When a stranger settles among us, there should be no waiting for this family or that family to make his acquaintance, which, being done, gives time for the growth of discontentment or disgust, but the hand of friendship should be immediately extended, and that respect offered which merit claims. Our true policy therefore is, to do all things to encourage the settlement of strangers among us, and to use every means to make their residence both agreeable and profitable."

from the wire, and forms the head; the second forms the groove, and finishes the head; and the third makes the screw, and turns out a highly polished and beautiful article, far superior to the English screws made by hand. It is expected that this establishment will manufacture not less than twenty thousand gross per week, and give steady employment to three hundred hands. I saw in the same establishment a machine for coining money, made for the government mint—the model of a saw for felling trees, invented for the express benefit of a “down east” company of speculators—a machine for turning out horse-shoes, perfect, with only one speedy operation—and a large number of machines for weaving stock frames were in the “full tide of successful operation,” all productions of Gen. Harvey’s fertile genius. The admirers of mechanical skill, and the curious generally, who visit Poughkeepsie, should not pass this repository of the “useful arts” by. Mr. Goodell, the partner of the inventor, is a most intelligent, affable gentleman, and appears to take pleasure in exhibiting and unfolding the mysteries of the place.

With a rich and fertile country around—the facilities of communication with the commercial emporium of the country—the invincible spirit of enterprise legitimately belonging to the “improvement party,” but now leavening the whole lump, it

were difficult to trace, even in imagination, the destined prosperity and greatness of this village and its vicinity. Notwithstanding there is but little water power here, it is estimated by shrewd, careful calculators, that any branch of manufacturing can be carried on by steam to any extent, with far greater economy than in your Manchester of America, Lowell.\*

The annual report of the inspector of grain in the city of New York, furnishes some interesting *official* evidence of the "conspicuous rank occupied by old Dutchess among her sister counties." From

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\* At this time there are twenty-three cotton and woollen manufactories in the county of Dutchess, the annual value of the manufactured articles in which is \$621,102 61; the value of the raw material \$284,235; and the number of yards of cloth manufactured 2,396,863. There is one dying and printing factory, consuming of the raw material \$650,000, and yielding manufactured articles to the value of \$750,000 annually. Of iron works there are six, consuming of the raw material \$116,330, and yielding the value of \$233,800. There are five trip-hammers, which consume \$4,740, and yield \$12,700. Of grist mills, saw mills, fulling mills, carding machines, clover mills, paper mills, and tanneries, there are two hundred and fifty-four, the value of the raw material consumed annually in which is \$807,386, and the annual product \$979,918 16. There is also one brewery, which consumes of the raw material \$65,000, and yields \$92,000. There are, therefore, in this county at the present time, of the various kinds of manufactories and hydraulic works, two hundred and ninety; which annually consume in the raw material, the value of \$1,927,416, and yield a product of \$2,689,521 57.

this report it appears, that the whole quantity of grain received in the city during the year amounts to 3,350,788 bushels.

Of this quantity 2,309,307 bushels were received from the several counties of this state, and 1,041,481 bushels from the other states of the union, and from foreign countries.

Of the 2,309,307 bushels received from the several counties of this state, 838,043 bushels, or *considerably more than one third of the whole*, was furnished by Dutchess county.

From all parts of the state, except the three counties of Dutchess, Columbia, and Rensselaer, there were received 734,522 bushels, being less by more than 100,000 bushels than was received from Dutchess alone.

It further appears, that of all the grain received into the city from every place, one quarter was supplied by the county of Dutchess.

By turning to the inspector's report for 1833, we find the whole quantity of grain received in the city from Dutchess was 479,532 bushels, from which it will appear that the surplus of grain sent to market from the county, has very nearly doubled in two years.

But the quantity of grain as shown by the inspector's report, falls very far short of showing the entire surplus grain product of the county. A

great many thousand bushels are annually sent directly from Poughkeepsie to the several towns on the New England seaboard. Large quantities of corn and rye are ground, and sent to New York in the meal—and still larger quantities of oats and corn are ground, and sent to New York as feed for horses, cows, &c. And nearly all the grain of the several towns bordering on Connecticut, finds a market in the manufacturing districts of that state. Not a bushel that is shipped direct to New England, or goes to the city as meal, or as feed; or that is sent to Connecticut, is embraced in the inspector's report; if it were, Dutchess county would probably be found, instead of 838,043 bushels, to have sent abroad during the past year, not less than 1,300,000 bushels.

The "Dutchess Plains," two miles below the village, furnishes some delightful sites for country seats, where the wealthy and the refined may retire in the summer season, from the "din and dust" of the city, and enjoy the magnificent, the soul-enlivening scenery, which meets the eye in every direction. Indeed, there are on the borders of the Hudson, from its rise to its mouth, localities of unrivalled beauty,—where the good man may breathe into the ear of heaven, the devout adorations awakened in his soul by all "above, around, and below him;" where the invalid may court and win

smiling health; where the botanist may walk in the garden of the flowers, and cull the sweets of rural science; and the philosopher, and the devotee of pleasure, may, alike, gratify the desires of the heart and the eye. The Hudson, with its romantic, its diversified scenery, rendered interesting by revolutionary reminiscences, furnishes inexhaustible materials for the poet and the painter. I have passed up and down its waters a hundred times; I have repeatedly wandered along its shores for miles, and every time I find some new prospect to admire, or some new incident to interest. One of the most graphic descriptions of some of the appearances of this noble river, recently appeared in the "Knickerbocker;" it is so pertinent to the train of my thoughts at this time, and possesses so many evidences of true poetry, that I cannot forbear quoting it entire; and this I do the more cheerfully, under an impression that it may, perchance, atone for my common-place thoughts or crude remarks.

### THE HUDSON.

Proud stream ! the birchen barks that wont of old  
From cove to cove to shoot athwart thy tide,  
The quivered nations, eloquent and bold,  
Whose simple fare thy shores and depths supplied,  
Are passed away ; and men of other mould  
Now o'er thy bosom their wing'd fabrics guide,



All white with sails thy keel-thronged waters flee,  
Through one rich lapse of plenty to the sea.

Beauty and Majesty on either hand

Have shored thy waters with their common realm—  
Here pasture, grove, and harvest-field expand,

There, the rough boatman veers his yielding helm  
From the sheer cliff, whose shadow broad and grand

Darkens his sail, and seems his path to whelm  
With doubt and gloom; till through some wild ravine,  
A gush of sunlight leaps upon the scene!

I love thy tempests, when the broad-winged blast

Rouses thy billows with his battle call,  
When gathering clouds, in phalanx black and vast,  
Like armed shadows gird thy rocky wall,  
And from their leaguering legions thick and fast

The galling hail-shot in fierce volleys fall,  
While quick, from cloud to cloud, darts o'er the levin  
The flash that fires the batteries of heaven!

How beauteous art thou, when, at rosy dawn,

Up from thy glittering breast its robe of mist  
Into the azure depths is gently drawn,

Or softly settles o'er thy bluffs, just kiss'd  
By the first slanting beams of golden morn;  
Gorgeous—when ruby, gold, and amethyst  
Upon thy tassellated surface lie—

The wave-glassed splendours of the sun-set sky!

And when the moon through wreaths of curdled snow,

Upon thee pours a flood of silver sheen,  
While the tall headlands vaster seem to grow,  
As on thy breast their giant shadows lean.

There is a mournful music in thy flow;



And I have listened mid the hallowed scene,  
Until lov'd voices seemed, in murmurs bland,  
Hailing me softly from the spirit land.

The deep Missouri hath a fiercer song,  
The Mississippi pours a bolder wave,  
And with a deaf'ning crash the torrent strong,  
From the linked lakes, leaps to Niagara's grave;  
Yet when the storm-king smites his thundering gong,  
Thy hills reply from many a bellowing cave;  
And when with smiles the sun o'erlooks their brow,  
He sees no stream more beautiful than thou.

The ride to Hyde Park, about six miles north of Poughkeepsie, is very pleasant. The elegant mansions, the extended plains, and the highly cultivated grounds you pass, render the route really delightful. The village or town of Hyde Park, derived its name from the place owned by the late Dr. Hosack. Dr. Bard, the original proprietor, gave it that name; and when the town of Clinton was divided into three separate villages, this town assumed the name of Hyde Park.

The mansion and grounds of the late Dr. Hosack, occupy a space of about seven hundred acres. It is a princely place, extending a mile from the village north, and about the same distance from the river east. The mansion is built on an extensive plain, and surrounded by trees and shrubbery of every variety. The grounds along the Albany

river road, on either side, are shaded with large locust trees. A retired spot of the grounds of this great estate is occupied with a neat little Episcopal chapel, and the mansion of the rector. This was given to the society by Dr. Bard. Its location is quite rural. There are three other churches in the town, a Methodist, a Dutch Reformed, and Quaker or Friends. The population of the town is about two thousand six hundred; but in the village there are perhaps not more than five hundred inhabitants. Judge Pendleton, Hamilton Wilkes, Thos. Williams, and E. Holbrook, Esqrs., have all beautiful mansions, and highly cultivated grounds. Dr. Hosack's place is to be sold, and will probably be divided into lots, and furnish ample space for a dozen mansions as summer residences for our New York city gentry. The New York and Albany boats land at Hyde Park, about half a mile from the village.

The "American National Portrait Gallery" contains a portrait, and brief biographical sketch of this distinguished medical practitioner and author. The author of the sketch says, that in 1830, Dr. Hosack concluded to retire from practice, and with that view purchased the elegant estate of his patron, Dr. Bard, at Hyde Park, on the banks of the Hudson, where he resided from May to November, engaged in cultivating his farm, and improving and

beautifying his pleasure grounds, and extensive botanical garden. His extensive and practical knowledge as a florist, connected with wealth and a refined taste, has rendered his garden second to none in the union; and here, in the bosom of his family, he enjoyed in retirement the bright reward of unsullied renown, which he had earned by a life of unceasing activity, in developing the hidden virtues, and administering the efficient power of a science which is of the first importance to his fellow-men. But the mighty conqueror, whose hand is stayed not by worldly grandeur or moral worth, broke in upon his repose, and on Tuesday night, the 29th of December, 1835, he expired at his residence in New York, at the age of sixty-six years. On Tuesday, of the preceding week, he remarked to a friend, that his health was most excellent, and had been so for some time. On Friday morning he felt rather unwell, but after taking his breakfast he went out a short distance, transacted some business, and returned to ride out in his wagon. He was suddenly seized with fainting, and soon after an apoplectic shock, attended with paralysis, from which time he lingered until Tuesday evening, the period of his demise. He had been anticipating the event for more than a year, although his health was good; but there were symptoms which, as a skilful physician, he could not mistake.

As a physician and man of science, his name was universally honoured as the first; as a citizen, his many virtues and excellences of character have made a deep impression upon the hearts of thousands, and he has left a blank in the scientific and social world, which few men can supply with equal ability. "He was always observant of the strictest punctuality in the performance of his numerous and various engagements, having scarcely ever been known either to omit the performance of his duty, or to be absent five minutes after the time prescribed for his attendance." It was an observation of his, that the more a man has to do, the better he does it, and the more punctual he is in the performance. His habits of early rising and strict temperance, have been the most effectual means in enabling him to perform the many arduous tasks which he has so successfully accomplished.

Soon after he retired from practice, he was invited by some of his friends to enter the political arena, and attach himself to one of the political parties then existing, but he declined by thus expressing his sentiments: "If a party could be formed favourable to the interests of *education, of agriculture, and the commercial* character of our state; to the development of its natural resources and promotion of internal improvements; to such a party I could not hesitate to avow my allegiance,

and to devote the best exertions of which I am capable, to advance the interests of my native state and country: but under existing dissensions, I must decline all connexion with our political institutions, and devote myself to the cultivation of the vine and the fig-tree, as more conducive to my own happiness and that of my family.'

## LETTER XVI.

*How the writer obtained the History of the Military Academy at West Point—Lt. Roswell Park—West Point a place of interest—Hallowed by Washington, Kosciusko, Lafayette, etc.—View of West Point after entering the Mountain Gap above—The Monuments—Links of the chain broken by the British vessels in 1777—Early History of the Academy—The Officers—Practical considerations which should influence those who are seeking or who may gain admission to the Military Academy, etc.*

West Point, June 10, 1836.

FRIEND P.—In 1834, I was associated with two gentlemen in the editorial management of a monthly magazine; in soliciting contributions for the pages of the work, I applied to an early and intimate friend,\* for a description and some account of West Point and the Military School. The desired information was cheerfully furnished, and published. It was drawn up with the accustomed ability of the writer, and from his perfect familiarity with the scenes described, as well as the facts introduced, it was considered the most full and accurate account of the institution that had ever appeared in print.

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\* Lt. Roswell Park, a graduate of West Point Academy, who has since distinguished himself not only as a gentleman of general intelligence, but especially as a lecturer on civil engineering.

I have mentioned these circumstances as an apology for using the facts, and occasionally the language, contained in this account. These facts, together with what I have been able to gather from a hasty visit to the place, will form the materials of my present epistle.

West Point is a spot of peculiar interest. It has been hallowed by the footsteps of a Washington, a Kosciusko, and a Lafayette; it is consecrated by a nation to the Spartan-like training of a few devoted sons from every state of our wide spread union; nor less sacredly secluded by nature as the scene of retirement and study: it seems alike calculated to please the pensive sage and the aspiring youthful soldier; while even female loveliness vouchsafes to paint its memories in lines of hope and brightness, as "*the boast of a glory hallowed land.*"

"Bright are the moments link'd with thee,  
Boast of a glory hallowed land;  
Hope of the valiant and the free,  
Home of their youthful soldier band.

The view of West Point as you enter the Mountain Gap, after you leave Newburgh, is delightful. In the fore ground is the new spacious hotel;\* be-

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\* An excellent well-managed house, by Mr. Cozzens, a gentleman highly esteemed by all visitors at West Point.

yond it are the academic halls, the barracks, chapel, and mess house, appropriated to the cadets; and on the right, are the comfortable dwellings occupied by the officers of the academy. On the left, at the angle of the plain, are traces of Fort Clinton; and on the right, towering far above Camptown, the suburb occupied by soldiers and citizens, stands Fort Putnam, on mount Independence, venerable in its ruins—"stern monument of a sterner age," which survived the attempts of treason and the assaults of bravery, only to yield its hallowed materials to the desecration of a rapacious owner.\* Of the three monuments which now meet your eye, the one on the right and nearest to you, on a projecting tongue of land bordered with thick groves, is the Cadet's Monument, erected to the memory of the deceased officers and cadets of the academy. It cost \$12,000. The centre one, near the flag-staff, is a cenotaph, erected by General Brown to the memory of Colonel Eleazar D. Wood, an early and distinguished graduate of the academy, who fell at the sortie of Fort Erie, in 1814. And the monument on the left, over the levelled redoubt or citadel of Fort Clinton, is sacred to Kosciusko. It

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\* Some years ago, the owner of the land on which Fort Putnam was located, proceeded to demolish the fort, using the materials for fences, &c. to compel the government to purchase it at an exorbitant price. This was finally done.



was completed in 1829, by the corps of cadets, at an expense of near \$5000. Just beyond the wharf, is the rock alluded to in my letter 'about' Cold Spring, from which the chain was stretched across the river in time of the revolution, to prevent the passage of British vessels. They broke it, however, in 1777, when they forced the passage of the highlands; and some links of it, near three feet long, and of bar-iron near two inches square, are still preserved in the statehouse as a revolutionary relic.

The Military Academy was contemplated at an early period of our national existence, with a view to the preservation of military knowledge, and the enforcement of a uniform discipline in our army. As early as 1790, General Knox, then secretary of war, in a report on the organization of the militia, says: "Either efficient institutions must be established for the military education of youth, and the knowledge acquired therein be diffused throughout the country by the means of rotation; or the militia must be formed of substitutes, after the manner of the militia of Great Britain. If the United States possess the vigour of mind to establish the first institution, it may be reasonably expected to produce the most unequivocal advantages. A glorious national spirit will be introduced, with its extensive train of political consequences." In 1793, General

Washington, in his annual message to Congress, suggests the inquiry, "whether a material feature in the improvement" of the system of military defence, "ought not to be, to afford an opportunity for the study of those branches of the art, which can scarcely ever be attained by practice alone." And in his annual message of 1796, he says: "The institution of a military academy is also recommended by cogent reasons. However pacific the general policy of a nation may be, it ought never to be without an adequate stock of military knowledge for emergencies. Whatever argument may be drawn from particular examples, superficially viewed, a thorough examination of the subject will evince that the art of war is extensive and complicated; that it demands much previous study; and that the possession of it, in its most improved and perfect state, is always of great moment to the security of a nation. This, therefore, ought to be a serious care of every government; and for this purpose, an academy, where a regular course of instruction is given, is an obvious expedient, which different nations have successfully employed."

On the 7th of May, 1794, Congress passed an act providing for a corps of artillerists and engineers, to consist of four battalions, to each of which, eight *cadets* were to be attached; making it the duty of the secretary of war to procure, at the public ex-

pense, the necessary books, instruments, and apparatus, for the use and benefit of said corps. This was the first introduction of cadets as a grade of officers in the army of the United States. The term *cadet*, derived from the French, signifying a younger son, was previously applied in England to those young gentlemen who, seeking the situation, were trained for public employment, particularly in the service of the East India Company. In our own army it signifies an officer ranking between a lieutenant and a sergeant; this grade having been confined to the pupils of the military academy since its establishment.

In 1798, Congress authorized the raising of an additional regiment of artillerists and engineers, and increased the number of cadets to fifty-six. In July of the same year, the President was empowered, by another act, to appoint four teachers of the arts and sciences, necessary for the instruction of this corps. Thus, although the cadets were not collected in one point, nor buildings erected for purposes of education; still, the principle upon which the present institution rests was fully sanctioned; a new grade was created in the army to which young men were exclusively entitled to be admitted; and means were provided for their education in the science of war, that they might be fitted for stations of command.

The military academy was established by an act of Congress, of March 16th, 1802, by which the military peace establishment was determined. By this act, the artillerists and engineers were made to constitute two distinct corps. To the corps of engineers were attached ten cadets. The 27th section provided, that the said corps, when organized, "shall be stationed at West Point, in the State of New York, and shall constitute a military academy." It is also provided, that the senior engineer officer present shall be superintendent of the academy; and authorized the purchase of the necessary books, implements, and apparatus, for the use and benefit of the institution. In the following year, another act, dated February 28, 1803, empowered the President to appoint one teacher of the French language, and one teacher of drawing.

Six years after, Mr. Jefferson, then President, and who had previously expressed some doubts of the constitutionality of the academy, thus calls the attention of Congress to the subject of its welfare: "The scale on which the military academy at West Point was originally established, is become too limited to furnish the number of well instructed subjects in the different branches of artillery and engineering, which the public service calls for. The chief engineer, having been instructed to consider the subject, and to propose an augmentation, which

might render the establishment commensurate with the present circumstances of the country, has made his report, which I now transmit for the consideration of Congress. The plan suggested by him of removing the institution to this place, (Washington,) is also worthy of attention. Besides the advantage of placing it under the immediate eye of the government, it may render its benefits common to the naval department; and will furnish opportunities of selecting, on better information, the characters most qualified to fulfil the duties which the public service may call for." The proposal to remove the academy to Washington, like several subsequent ones, was promptly negatived; but on the above recommendation, an act was passed, increasing the corps of cadets by one hundred and fifty-six additional members.

And in 1812, after the favourable notice of President Madison, Congress passed an act, dated April 29, which declares that "the military academy shall consist of the corps of engineers, and the following professors and assistants, in addition to the teachers of French and drawing already provided for, viz.: A professor of experimental and natural philosophy; a professor of mathematics; a professor of the art of engineering; with an assistant for each." A chaplain was also to be appointed, and required to officiate as professor of geography, eth-

ics, and history. The number of cadets was limited to two hundred and sixty; the prerequisites for admission, the term of study and service, and the rate of pay and emoluments were prescribed.

Such were the essential provisions for establishing the military academy; and notwithstanding repeated efforts to change them, they still remain unaltered. The documentary history above given, is extracted from Col. Johnson's able report to the House of Representatives, dated May 17, 1834; a document, which shows in detail how fully this institution has received the sanction and support of all the great statesmen of our nation, from the first establishment of our federal government. It also shows how unfounded are the prejudices which have been locally excited against the academy; and how substantial have been the benefits by which it has sought to repay the country for her maternal care and support.

The old buildings first occupied by the academy are long since gone to decay, and demolished. In 1812, the jurisdiction of two hundred and fifty acres of land, was ceded by New York to the United States; and an appropriation of \$12,000 having been made for the erection of quarters, the mess-hall, chapel, and south barracks, were begun, and completed in the following year. The three brick edifices nearest the mess-hall, were erected in

1815-16, and the other three nearest the flag-staff, on the same line, in 1820-21. The north barracks were built in 1817. Of the three stone dwellings west of the flag-staff, the farthest was erected in 1821; the others in 1825-26. The hospital and hotel were built in 1828-29; and the ordnance or gun-house, in 1830. Appropriations have been made for a gymnasium and a chapel, which are now under construction. The water-works, for supplying all the buildings with water, or extinguishing fire, were completed in 1830, at an expense of \$4,500. The annual expense of the academy is stated at \$115,000; averaging about \$425 for each cadet. This is one fourth less than the average cost of each cadet, prior to 1817, which was not less than \$550 per annum. The library is well selected, of military, scientific, and historical works, containing nearly ten thousand volumes. The philosophical apparatus lately received from France is extensive, and constructed with the latest improvements.

Our biographical history of the academy shall be brief. Its superintendence was intrusted, in its early stages, to General Jonathan Williams, *ex-officio*, as chief of the corps of engineers. During this period, from 1802 to 1812, the number of cadets was small, and the total number of graduates was only seventy-one. This may satisfactorily



answer the question, why do we not find more of them among the distinguished men of our country. The only professors recorded during this period, are George Barron, and afterward Francis R. Hassler, professors of mathematics; Francis De Masson, teacher of French, and Christian E. Zoeller, of drawing. Mr. Hassler is now employed by the government on a trigonometrical survey of our coast.

From 1812 to 1815, the academy was placed under the direction of the succeeding chief engineer, General Joseph G. Swift. Among the professors, were the Rev. Adam Empie, chaplain; Andrew Ellicott, professor of mathematics; Col. Jared Mansfield, professor of natural philosophy; and Capt. Alden Partridge, professor of engineering.

In 1815, Capt. Alden Partridge was appointed superintendent of the academy; the chief engineer being, as at present, its Inspector, *ex-officio*. The only new professor appointed was Claudius Bernard, teacher of French.

Some traits of Capt. Partridge's character rendering a change desirable, he was relieved from his station in 1817; and succeeded by Col. Sylvanus Thayer, of the corps of engineers; a gentleman every way qualified by nature and by acquirements, both at home and abroad, for this responsible duty. Under his superintendence, an improved system of



discipline was introduced; the course of studies much extended, so as to compare favourably with that of foreign military schools; and the studies required came to be thoroughly taught. Colonel Thayer assiduously devoted all his resources to the advancement of the academy, until 1833, when, at his own request, he was honourably relieved from this station, and appointed to direct the erection of fortifications in Boston harbour. He was succeeded in the superintendence of the academy by Major R. E. De Russey, of the corps of engineers, a gentleman of amiable character and extensive acquirements.

The chief professors of the academy not yet mentioned, are: chaplains, Rev. T. Picton, 1818, Rev. C. P. McIlvaine, 1825, now Episcopal Bishop of Ohio, and Rev. Thos. Warner, 1828; professors of engineering, Claude Crozet, 1817, since chief civil engineer of Virginia, Major David B. Douglass, 1823, now civil engineer, and Dennis H. Malan, 1831; professor of natural philosophy, Edward H. Courtenay; professor of mathematics, Charles Davis, 1821; acting professors of chemistry, Dr. James Cutbush, 1820, Dr. John Torrey, 1824, and Lieut. W. Fenn Hopkins, 1828; teachers of drawing, Thos. Gimbrede, 1819, Charles R. Leslie, R. A. 1833, and Robert W. Weir, 1834.

The total number of graduates, from its estab-

lishment to July, 1834, inclusive, is seven hundred and eighty-five. Of this number, four hundred and thirty-four were in the service at the latter date, as officers of the army; nine have been killed in battle; eighty-four died in service; two hundred and eight have resigned; and the remainder are disbanded or otherwise dismissed from the service. Of those who sleep on the battle-field, Col. Wood, Col. Gibson, and Capt. Williams, fell at the sortie of Fort Erie; Rathbone at Queenston Heights; Hobart at Fort George; Ronem at Chicago; Burchstead and Wilcox at Fort Mimms; and Smith at Christler's farm in Canada.

“Our whole army possesses now far more of the public respect and confidence, than it did not many years since. It is the great distinction of the academy at West Point, that has contributed largely and effectually to this elevation of the character of the military establishment. And it has accomplished a nobler service, by sending forth numbers annually, competent to superintend the construction of those chains of internal improvement, which are to be the eternal bonds of our national union. The rail-roads which connect the capital of Massachusetts with the heart of the state, and with important harbours in Rhode Island and Connecticut; the improved facilities of communication afforded to the whole country by the Susquehannah and Balti-

more, Baltimore and Ohio rail-roads; and the similar construction between Charleston and Hamburg, S. C.; the new roads which have augmented the wealth of the territories of Michigan and Arkansas, by opening new channels of transportation; and the securities extended to the internal and foreign commerce of the nation, by important harbour improvements upon the shores of the lakes, and upon the sea coast;—these are some of the enduring memorials of the usefulness of the military academy, and of the returns it has made for the care, and time, and money, which have been bestowed upon it. Other testimonials, and other rewards, have been accorded to it, by the literary institutions of our land, which have invited its graduates to fill important professorships. The president and one of the professors in the college of Louisiana; the president of Hamilton college, and the vice-president and the professor of mathematics in Kenyon college, in Ohio; the professors of mathematics in the college of Geneva, and in the university of Nashville; the professors of chemistry in the universities of Pennsylvania and Virginia, have all been members of the academy, and have resigned their commissions in the army, upon receiving these honourable appointments. And very recently, two second lieutenants have accepted vacant chairs in the university of New York. No

words can demonstrate with one half the force and impressiveness, the beneficial influence of the military academy upon the characters of its members, and upon the national reputation. Within the short period of thirty years, this institution, whose own high reputation is now sustained by professors, all of whom, with but one exception, have been educated within its walls, has not only furnished to the army gallant and accomplished officers, and to the country skilful engineers, but has sent forth principals and professors, to ornament and sustain colleges and literary seminaries. To this list of those who have been thus distinguished, might be added the name of Ritner, who graduated with a highly respectable rank, in possession of his comrades' affection and confidence; and became the professor of civil and topographical engineering in Washington college in Pennsylvania; and died at the moment when the prospect of serving his native state dawned upon him, and when his native state began to rejoice in the anticipation of his usefulness and success." In this complimentary summary, extracted from Colonel Johnson's report, may now be included the distinguished professor of mathematics and philosophy, in the university of Pennsylvania. But while we would thus award honour where honour is due; and show that, estimated according to her contribution of national sci-

ence, the military academy is "not a whit behind the chiefest,"—far be it from her sons to monopolize distinction, or to say that she has done any more than a national academy ought to have done, in return for all her advantages.

The argument, that it is supererogatory to educate young men at the national expense, while so many who are self-educated volunteer their services, loses its force, when it is considered that the cadets are not merely scholars, but an active and efficient part of the army; a grade of officers on duty, as much as if they were dispersed through all the posts and garrisons; but learning that duty ten times as well as they could thus learn it; and at still less expense than if instructed while holding the commission of second lieutenants, corresponding to the old grade of ensigns. They learn it too, far more uniformly and thoroughly than if taught at private schools, military or civil; as the experience of more than *one* rival institution abundantly testifies. No fewer than *thirty-four* gentlemen, all with one exception similarly educated at the academy, are employed in the discipline and instruction of two hundred and sixty cadets. Who but the most wealthy, could afford to pay for a similar amount of instruction for their sons, during four years of preparatory study?

The other argument raised against the academy,

that only the sons of the influential and wealthy, gain admission to its advantages, is untrue in point of fact. Were it true, the blame would still rest, not on the academy, but on the members of Congress, on whose recommendations the appointments are generally made. Those who complain, therefore, have only to elect more impartial representatives. Or if the fault be in the secretary of war, who makes the appointments, still it would not be remedied by abolishing the academy. The appointment of officers still resting with the executive, it would then appoint as lieutenants those whom it now appoints as cadets; or rather, it would appoint a more favoured class, already well educated. But as regards the administration at the academy itself; it is admitted by all who know the truth, even by its most violent opponents on the official boards of visitors, that nothing can be more just and impartial, than the promotion or rejection of the candidates for its honours. As about two cadets are rejected, for every one who graduates, it is not strange that many of the disappointed should find fault with the strictness of its requisitions. But in educating candidates for the highest offices of the army, it is surely just that the country should select those who are deemed best qualified; and not be required to educate and commission all who may be admitted to the academy on the recommen-

dation of partial friends. Even though many of the rejected may possess latent talents, undeveloped or dimmed by idleness; though they may afterward rise and shine in another sphere; still the academic staff had no right to presume that they would thus acquit themselves, without some present evidences of future promise.

The number of applicants is so great, that the youth must be very presumptuous, or must feel his claims to be transcendent, who can sanguinely calculate on admission. This may be said without imputation; because the wealthy and influential are by no means the only candidates. As the ratio of appointments is about three for each congressional district in four years, the candidate may generally learn, upon inquiry, whether there is a vacancy in his district. Or if not, it may be useful to forward his application and have it registered at Washington; as priority of application is one ground of preference. In selecting candidates for admission, the descendants of revolutionary officers, and of those who were in service during the last war, are considered as having peculiar claims to notice; since their fathers perilled life itself for the preservation of their country. There is no other distinction between the candidates; save their accredited talents and abilities to be of public service. The age of admission is now limited from sixteen



to twenty-one years; as that is supposed to be the most suitable period for completing, or rather commencing a military education. The acquirements necessary for admission, are, an acquaintance with reading, writing, and the elementary rules and *principles* of arithmetic. Efforts have been made, and it has been recommended by some boards of visitors, to raise the standard of admission, requiring a knowledge of grammar, geography, and the French and Latin languages, as a prerequisite. The decisive objection to this proposition, is, that it would close the doors of the academy against many who have not the pecuniary means of making these acquirements. But let it not therefore be supposed that those acquirements are the less valuable or necessary. On the contrary, as geography, history, and the Latin language, are not now taught in the academic course, it is so much the more important that young gentlemen should be well versed in them before entering the academy; otherwise, they are obliged to acquire them by private study, or else remain ignorant of these essential branches of a liberal education. Many candidates fail of being admitted at the initiatory examination, because, although they can give the rules of arithmetic, they cannot explain the principles on which these depend. As opportunity is afforded for gratuitous instruction on this subject at the



academy, from the 1st of June, until the examination of candidates near the close of the month, they who are anxious for success, would do well to avail themselves of this assistance.

The months of July and August in each year are devoted solely to military exercises; for which purpose the cadets leave the barracks and encamp in tents on the plain, under the regular police and discipline of an army in time of war. For this purpose, the cadets are organized in a battalion of four companies, under the command of the chief instructor of tactics and his assistants. The corporals are chosen from the third class, or cadets who have been present one year; the sergeants from the second class, who have been present two years; and the commissioned officers, or captains, lieutenants, &c., are selected from the first class, or highest at the academy. All the other cadets fill the ranks as private soldiers, though necessarily acquainted with the duties of officers. In rotation they have to perform the duty of sentinels, at all times, day or night, storm or sunshine, in camp, and evenings and meal-times, in barracks. Cadets who have been present two encampments, are allowed, if their conduct have been correct, to be absent the third, on furlough. The drills or military exercises, consist in the use of the musket, rifle, cannon, mortar, howitzer, sabre and rapier, or broad

and small sword; fencing, firing at targets, &c., evolutions of troops, including those of the line; and the preparation and preservation of all kinds of ammunition and materials for war. The personal appearance of the corps of cadets cannot fail to attract admiration; especially on parade or review. The uniform is a gray coatee, with gray pantaloons in winter, and white linen in summer. The dress cap is of black leather, bell crowned, with plate, scales, and chain. The splendid band of music, which, under Willis, made hill and valley ring with notes of "linked harmony long drawn out," though changed, still pleases; and under its new leader, promises soon to deserve its former renown, as the best in our country.

The cadets return from camp to barracks on the last of August, and the remaining ten months of the academic year are devoted to their arduous studies. The ceremony of striking the tents and marching out of camp is so imposing, as to be well worth an effort of the visiter to be present on that occasion. On the previous evening, the camp is brilliantly illuminated; and enlivened with music, dancing, and be vies of beautiful strangers, it presents quite a fairy scene.

For the sake of more full instruction, each class is divided into several sections, each having a separate instructor. Thus each cadet is called upon,

at almost every recitation, to explain a considerable portion of the lesson; for the morning recitations generally occupy two hours each. The written or delineated demonstrations, are explained on a black board in the presence of the whole section.

The studies of the first year are algebra, geometry, descriptive geometry, trigonometry, and the French language. All the mathematical studies are practically taught and applied to numerous problems not in the books; on the resolution of which greatly depends the reputation and standing of each rival candidate for pre-eminence. The studies of the second year, are the theory of shades, shadows, and perspective, practically illustrated; analytic geometry, with its application to conic sections; the integral and differential calculus or science of fluxions; surveying and mensuration; the French language, and the elements of drawing, embracing the human figure, in crayon. This completes the course of mathematics, and also of French; which the cadets learn to translate freely as a key to military science, but which few of them speak fluently.

The third year is devoted to a course of natural philosophy, including mechanics, optics, electricity, magnetism, and astronomy; together with chemistry, and sketching landscapes with the pencil, and

topography with the pen, which complete the course of drawing.

The fourth and last year is appropriated to the study of artillery and infantry tactics; the science of war, and fortification, or military engineering; a course of civil engineering, embracing the construction of roads and bridges, rail-roads and canals, with the improvement of rivers and harbours; a course of mineralogy and military pyrotechnics; together with the elements of rhetoric, moral philosophy, and national and constitutional law.

To test the progress of the cadets in these studies, semi-annual examinations are held, commencing on the first Mondays of January and June; at the latter of which a board of visitors, appointed by the secretary of war, is present, to make a critical official report of the state of the academy. The examination of all the classes usually occupies about a fortnight, and is very severe; but still is not considered the full test of individual proficiency. Each instructor makes a weekly class report, on which is recorded the daily performance of each cadet; those who excel being credited 3, and those who fail entirely marked 0. These marks are accessible to the cadets from week to week, and stimulate their exertions: finally, they are summed up at the end of the term, and laid before the academic staff, and visitors; so that the standing of each cadet is

influenced not only by his examination, but by all his previous recitations. A certain prescriptive proficiency being required of the cadets in each branch, those who fall below this limit are necessarily discharged from the service. Averaging the last ten years, where a class of one hundred enters the academy, it is reduced to about seventy at the end of six months, sixty at the end of one year, fifty at the end of two years, and forty at the end of three years; not more than about thirty-five graduating.

There is a general merit roll of every class, made out at the end of each academic year; the merit of each cadet being expressed by a number denoting his proficiency or acquirements. But the final standing of each cadet, on which depends his rank in the army, is determined by the sum of his merit, in all the different branches; and this depends not only on his actual proficiency in any branch, but also on its relative importance. This latter is thus estimated at present by the academic staff, viz.: Conduct 300; engineering 300; mathematics 300; natural philosophy 300; chemistry and mineralogy 200; rhetoric, ethics and law 200; infantry tactics 200; artillery 100; French 100; and drawing 100. Hence the individual who should excel in all the branches, would be credited with 2100 on the final merit roll; but no more

than three or four such instances have ever occurred at the academy. The cadet in each class having the greatest sum of merit is placed first on the roll, and so onward; and he who is deficient in only one single branch is discharged, or else turned back another year to receive a second probation.

The graduates of the military academy are entitled by law to a preference over other applicants for commissions in the army. As the average number of vacancies is only about twenty-five annually, the army would soon be more than filled, did not a considerable number of the graduates voluntarily resign, in order to embrace other professions, particularly that of civil engineering. Although feeling under a moral obligation to offer their services to the country in case of any future emergency, they deem it right, as it is freely permitted, in time of peace, to embrace other professions in which they may seek to be still more useful. Those who remain in the army, are attached as brevet second lieutenants to the different corps, until they may receive higher rank on the occurrence of vacancies.

## LETTER XVII.

*Settlement of Newburgh—Location—Population—Showy appearance from the River—Place of business—Steamboats—Extensive manufacture of Bricks in Newburgh and vicinity—Iron Foundry—Newburgh Brewery—Col. Crawford's extensive Storehouse—Business crowded into one street—Botanic Gardens and Nursery of the Messrs. Downing—Description of the same—J. W. Knevels' collection of exotic Plants, the most extensive in the country—View from Beacon Hill—Splendid Scenery—Reasons for supposing the Hudson was once a Lake—Washington's Head-Quarters—The United States Hotel—Walden, a manufacturing village on the Walkill—Its resources, etc.*

Newburgh, June 10th, 1836.

FRIEND P.—Newburgh was originally settled by a few emigrants from Palatine, in 1708. It is beautifully located on the west bank of the Hudson, sixty miles north of New York, and contains a population of 7683, according to the state census of 1835. Situated as it is, on the declivity of a hill, it makes a fine appearance from the river, although, if we except a few elegant mansions on the hill, little taste is displayed in the architectural view.

It is a place of considerable business. The products of Orange county are principally shipped from this village to New York. Five steamboats, the Washington, the Superior, the William

Young, and the Highlander, are constantly employed in transporting produce to the city, and another boat, the Baltimore, runs between Newburgh and Albany with freight or passengers.

Bricks are manufactured in Newburgh, and the immediate vicinity, on a pretty extensive scale. Three establishments make yearly, I am informed, an average of three millions each; one four and a half millions; and six smaller establishments, a short distance north of the village, about fourteen millions. With what are made on the opposite shore, the aggregate number manufactured by all is upwards of thirty-six millions per annum. These bricks, at an average of \$6 per thousand, amount to the enormous sum (dug from the clay hills as it were) of upwards of two million dollars. There is also a large Iron Foundry, owned by J. W. Wells, at which various kinds of machinery and castings are made. The brewery of J. Beveridge & Co. is very extensive, and the ale is, I think, without exception, the best manufactured on the river. At least, it is superior to any with which I am acquainted. More than twenty thousand barrels of this excellent *beverage* are turned out annually.

Some of the storehouses are very extensive; that owned by Col. D. Crawford, is two hundred and fifty feet long, and the amount of produce shipped by the house with which this gentleman is connected,



during the navigation, amounted to something like two hundred thousand dollars. Nearly all the business is crowded into one street, running parallel with the river. And a large number of the inhabitants are huddled into the chambers over, or in the rear of the stores.

The Botanic Gardens and Nurseries of the Messrs. Downing, a little north of the village, in a charming situation sloping gently towards the shore, and looking out from among the bright flowers and the fresh foliage, over one of the sweetest of views, are by no means the least attractive portion of the suburbs of this place; and I suspect, from the celebrity which this establishment is attaining, as a commercial garden, throughout the Union, that many strangers are drawn hither by the increasing taste for horticulture, to view the improvements in cultivation, or to draw from the rich resources of fruit and ornamental trees collected here, for the improvement and embellishment of their own estates. Although the proprietors mentioned to me that their establishment was new, and comparatively in its infancy, yet from the vigorous manner with which it is conducted in the various departments, it must become the source of great advantages to the whole country. The proprietors appear to possess a profound knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of their profession, and a con-

stant correspondence is maintained with scientific individuals and establishments of the same kind in Europe, by which means all the new fruits, and every thing rare and valuable to the amateur, is obtained as soon as it comes into notice. The variety of fruits cultivated in the nurseries is quite astonishing: I can only recollect one hundred and fifty kinds of apples, and more than two hundred of pears—what a treasure for the farmer and horticulturist! The proprietors pay the most minute attention to the genuineness of the sorts, and bearing trees are planted to test all the varieties. As a proof of the advantages of, and the perfection to which grafting is carried, I was shown several trees which bear annually twenty-five or thirty varieties of fruit upon the different branches.

In the lower parts of the grounds we observed an extensive walk just formed, exhibiting a complete botanical circuit of plants arranged in a scientific manner—a rockwork for alpine plants, and a pond for aquarian, in which the water-lilies and a number of other aquatic plants were thriving admirably. In this way the establishment will, when completed, comprise every thing desirable in its way to the botanist, the amateur, and the agriculturist. I noticed large plantations of the celebrated Chinese mulberry, grape vines, and the rarer and more delicate shrubs and plants—and among the treasures

of Flora, rich collections of roses, dahlias, and other ornamental plants. In the hot-house, among a variety of curious vegetation, I was struck with the size of a huge aloe, one of those wonders of nature which bloom but once in two of the ordinary lifetimes of the human race. This specimen has, I believe, achieved more than one half its centennial period. From the hasty glance which I took through the establishment, I was unable to note more particularly those minutæ of such an establishment which, after all, must be seen to be appreciated—but I was delighted with the greenness of the hedges, of which I saw four or five kinds growing here to test their comparative merits in this climate. Every foreigner is justly offended with our unsightly fences—why should we not appropriate to ourselves the beautiful materials which nature seems to have armed with thorns, and decked with foliage, for that special purpose. And then, what a *discord* between rail fences and green meadows, and what a *harmony* in live hedges and equally verdant fields!

I encountered, in my rambles in the suburbs, a very rich private collection of exotic plants at the demesne of J. W. Knevels, Esq., who, as I understand, is a zealous amateur, and has recently deprived Philadelphia of some of her boasted floral and botanical treasures to enrich this neighbour-

hood. There are many superb tropical plants in his range of hot-houses, more than one hundred feet in length, which I had never before seen, and many of which I had never observed specimens so fine. The large variety of camellias—the noble orange trees—the stately palms—the breadfruit tree—the coffee, camphor, guava, and other West Indian fruits, were thriving here apparently as if in their natural zones. If I had first seen the light of heaven in some southern clime, beneath the shade of a palm or a plantain, I might, like the Hottentot whose story is upon record, have wept at the sight of our compatriot trees; but as it was, I contented myself with admiring that refinement of mind which led a country gentleman to indulge and cultivate a taste at once so innocent, so delightful, and so instructive, as the collection and preservation of those beautiful and delicate productions, which the great Creator has scattered with a bountiful hand over the different climates and countries of the earth.

The stranger, who wishes to carry away a distinct impression of this section of the Hudson, will not fail to visit *Beacon Hill*, opposite Newburgh, the last summit of the Highlands of any altitude, as the range dips off to the northeast. An hour's ride on horseback from Fishkill landing, partly through the fine arable lands of Dutchess, and

partly through the luxuriant over-hanging foliage of the mountain road, brings you to the summit. A few occasional glimpses through the tufts of trees, with now and then a broader opening at some curve of the wood, beautiful though they be, give you but a slight foretaste of the magnificent *coup d'œil* in reserve for you upon the summit. This summit—a rounded peak of the primitive granite, bare, or only tufted here and there with a few groups of small trees, with no habitations or traces of cultivation upon it, affords a view of a landscape, at once one of the grandest and most beautiful that can be found in the union. Rising as it does, rather abruptly from the plain on the east bank, the spectator, gazing from its height upon the scene before him to the west and north, is placed as it were upon the boundary—the frame or setting of a magnificent panorama—which is continued by the Highlands in the south, the hills of the Shawangunk range in the west, and the Catskills in the north, quite round the picture. In this fine setting—high, rugged, and frowning on the range where you stand—softer, but still strongly marked as it breaks against the horizon opposite you—faint, indefinable, and shadowy, where it melts in the clear blue sky to the northward—in this fine setting, the materials of the beautiful and the picturesque are arranged with all

the grandeur, the softness, and beauty of detail, that the most fastidious connoisseur of fine scenery can desire. Before you lies the Hudson, swollen into a lovely expanse or bay of ten miles in length—afterward narrowing, and meandering away to the north, until it is lost to the eye in the distance—sprinkled through its whole course with the white sails of the numberless vessels that float upon its surface. Sloping away from its banks, rise the fine cultivated lands of the rich old river counties—the clustered villages—the neat farm houses,

“ and hamlets low,  
With whose thick orchard-blooms the soft winds play,”

and its elegant villas gleaming through the tufts of foliage that surround them. The soft green of the meadows—the deeper tints of the forest masses, scattered here and there through the cultivated lands—the golden hue of the grain fields in mid-summer—and the sparkling lustre of the river and the two small lakes west of Newburgh, which shine like sheets of silver in the rays of the declining sun—all these, with a thousand variations in the grouping of the details, produced by the art of man in a tract of country which yields a luxuriance of vegetation to correspond with its noble river and fine hills—form a picture, such as we

may suppose greeted the eyes of Moses when he looked down upon the promised land.

The valley before us is also interesting to those who are fond of studying the wonderful mutations and revolutions that have taken place upon the face of our continent, as being the supposed *bed* of a *lake* of large dimensions, the southern boundary of which was once the Highlands, through which the mass of waters having burst, found their way to the ocean, leaving the bed of the lake dry, and forming the present channel of the river. Besides the proofs which the man of science finds in the formation of this valley—the various deposits—the organized remains—and the abruptly waved rolling surface in many places—it is remarkable how the idea of its having been the bed of an original lake, impresses itself upon even a general observer placed upon Beacon Hill. The very chain of mountains which meet the horizon, looking in every direction from this point, were, undoubtedly, the banks of this vast body of water—the abrupt, torn passage through the hills below bearing witness to a sudden convulsion—the rounded boulders of stone scattered over the level plains, and those plains themselves having in their soils all the characteristics of a *deposited* surface—all powerfully serve to the conviction, that you are looking upon the dry bed of a lake of noble dimensions.



Beacon Hill was a station for the display of bonfires in the revolution, which, from its elevated position, denoted the movements of the enemy to the inhabitants for a great distance through the surrounding counties.

During my visit to Newburgh, I visited Washington's Head-Quarters—the old Hasbrouck house—occupied by him and his family in the revolutionary war. It is now occupied by a son of Washington's host. Veneration, if I may be allowed the use of a phrenological phrase, does not appear to be a very prominent development, or bump, on the cranium of the present proprietor, as the improvements made in various parts of this “time honoured” and Washington hallowed mansion melancholily demonstrate. The sleeping apartment of Washington and his lady were pointed out to me, as was also the chair belonging to him, which has, I regret exceedingly to say, been newly bottomed and painted.

The United States Hotel is a well contrived and spacious building of brick. It looks out upon the Hudson from thirty-six windows and doors. It is now under the management of Mr. Gilbert, and will compare with the best hotels on the river. Daily mail stages leave this hotel for Goshen, Binghamton, Owego, Ithaca, Geneva, Buffalo, &c. All the New York and Albany steamboats land and



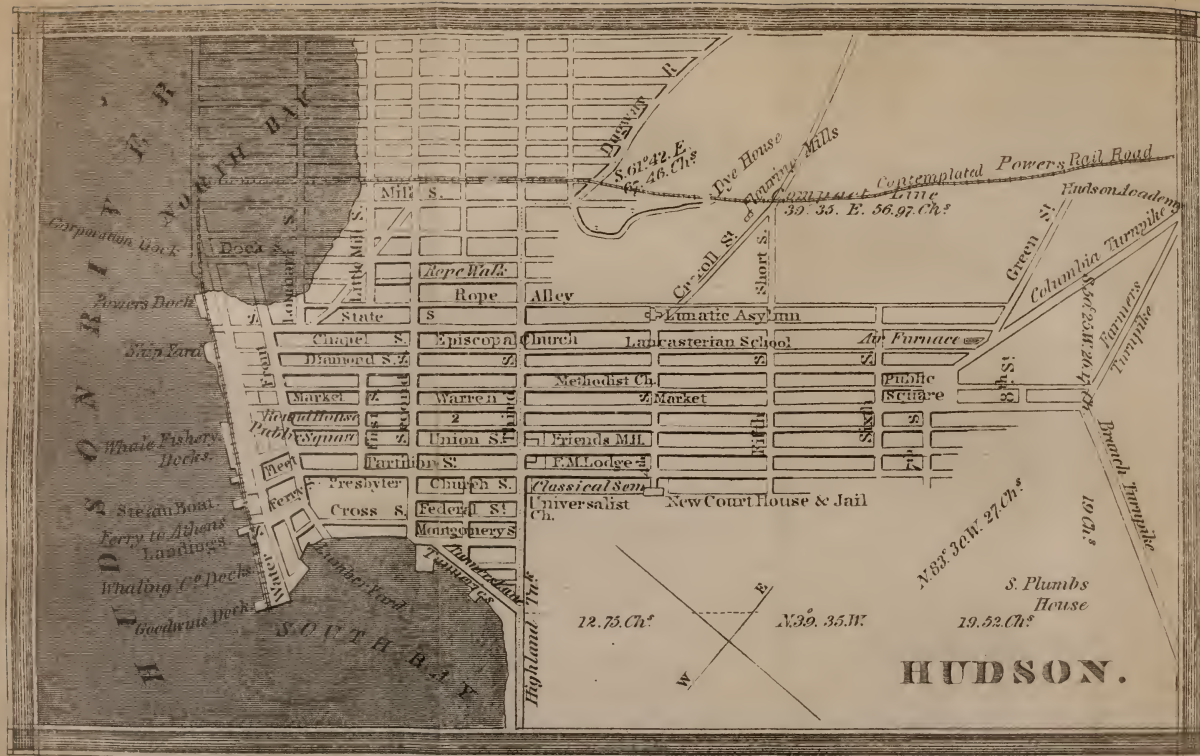
receive passengers at the dock directly in front of the hotel.

Eleven miles west of Newburgh, there is a fine little manufacturing village called Walden. This village is said to contain the greatest water power of any village in the state of New York, within eighty miles of the city. The district of country around it is remarkable for beauty, fertility, and salubrity of climate. The village is situated at the Falls of the River Walkill. The river passes through the village, where it has an average width of two hundred feet; a cascade of thirty-two feet fall, and rapids of eighteen feet, in that distance, giving facilities for working the water three times from so many levels, with over-shot wheels of twenty, eighteen, and twelve feet diameter, and on both sides of the river. The Walkill has its source in the numerous ponds in the mountains on both sides of it, and also receives all the springs in a course of fifty miles before it reaches the Falls at Walden. It is considered a powerful and permanent stream, and will probably continue so from circumstances connected with it. The river has never been known to rise by freshets over three feet at Walden, which is accounted for from the fact of its passing through a narrow outlet after leaving the drowned lands, over which any sudden influx of water diffuses itself without occasion.

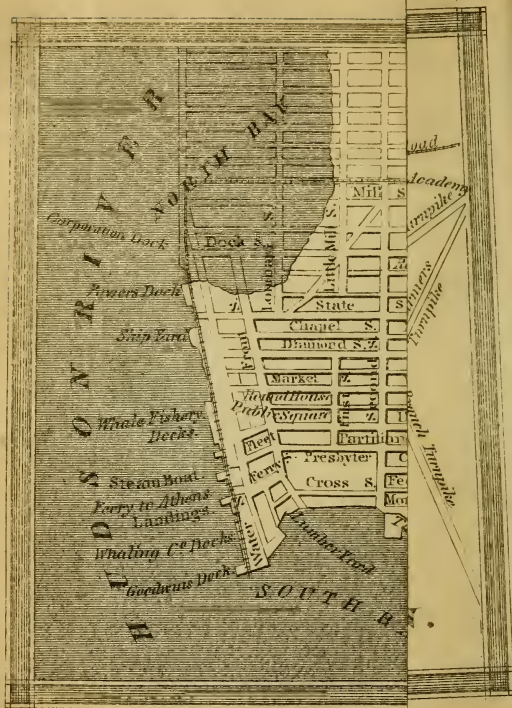
any disastrous flood below the outlet. The village was commenced in 1823, when the canal was completed, and the first factory erected, since which it has acquired a population of twelve hundred. Its water power alone is capable of sustaining a population of ten thousand inhabitants.

But the bell on the dock announces the steamboat in sight, and I must away, without saying the half I intended. So farewell for the present.









## LETTER XVIII.

*Original purchase and first settlement of Hudson—The Whale Fishery—Reverses of Hudson—Hudson and Berkshire Rail Road—Statistical Estimates—Girard College—Lebanon Springs—Capital, &c., of Whaling Companies—Capt. Paddock—The Shipping of Hudson—Rail Road ropes—Alexander Coffin—Captain Gordon—New Court House and Jail—Private Dwellings—Churches—Doctor White's Asylum for the Insane—Education—Distinguished men of Hudson—Grave of Lieut. Wm. H. Allen—Col. Jenkins—Location of Hudson, &c.—Views—North Bay—View from Prospect Hill—Steamboats—Banking Capital—Village of Athens—Ferry, &c.—Stuyvesant—Great Nut-ton Hook—Beautiful Scites.*

Hudson, May 2d, 1837.

DEAR P.—This city derives its name from Henry Hudson, the first navigator of the “noble North.” The site on which the city is built was purchased in 1783, one year after the war of the American Revolution, and the settlement commenced in 1784. It was purchased by twenty-seven individuals, chiefly from the Island of Nantucket, Providence, R. I., and Martha's Vineyard, with a view to the establishment of the whale fishery, which was commenced immediately; this branch of business, together with the West India trade, were carried on for several years extensively, and with success. The growth

of Hudson, for a number of years after its first settlement, was almost without a parallel; and continued to increase and flourish until the commencement of the embargo, prior to the late war with Great Britain.

Some ten or twelve years since, the city underwent one of the reverses to which great prosperity sometimes leads. From this depression it is, however, rapidly rising; and will, in time, doubtless become one of the most prominent places for business on the banks of the Hudson. Its location, in several important particulars, is without a rival.

The inhabitants count much on the completion of the Hudson and Berkshire Rail Road, and their hopes will, unquestionably, be realized. The Rail Road Company was incorporated in 1832, and its charter renewed in 1834; but no organization took place until May, 1835. Its capital stock is \$350,000, and more than double that amount was subscribed on the opening of the books. The preliminary surveys commenced in June, 1835, and the work has steadily progressed since that period. The whole line, extending from the river at the city of Hudson to West Stockbridge, Mass., thirty-two miles, is under contract for grading, and nearly or quite completed. The rails will, in all probability, be laid this summer; and by September of the present year, the work will be completed.



This road passes through a beautiful valley, embracing one of the richest farming districts in the state. At Stockbridge, it will connect with the great Western Rail Road from Boston; and at Catskill with the Rail Road leading to Canajoharie, and thence to Buffalo. Through this avenue the East may be supplied with the produce of the fertile West, and the latter with the manufactures of the East. It will also afford a new route for travellers from the "Commercial" to the "Literary Emporium." They may then leave the city of New York at 5 o'clock, P. M., reach Hudson at 4 A. M., and arrive at Boston at 2 P. M., of the same day. But independent of all travel, and eastern and western transportation, it is estimated that the county of Berkshire will support the road, and more than pay the interest of the capital. It is the opinion of George Rich, Esq., the engineer, that the road will be built within its capital, or for \$11,000, per mile—say entire capital \$350,000; the interest at 7 per cent. would amount to \$24,500; superintendence and repairs to \$20,000; total, \$44,500. Now individuals acquainted with the marble business have offered to contract to deliver to the company at Stockbridge, from the quarries of the beautiful marble in that village, 100 tons per day, for nine months in the year; and to insure the sale of the same amount when delivered at Hudson.

But for safety, I will assume but half that amount, at \$2, per ton, for transportation, where they now pay \$5; 50 tons per day for 240 days, pays \$24,000. The other tonnage to and from the Hudson river was ascertained, two years since, to exceed 25,000 tons, which at \$2, would amount to \$50,000, giving a total of \$74,000. To secure the marble business to this company, an association of the Rail Road stockholders have purchased nearly all of the principal quarries in the vicinity of Stockbridge. The marble of which the Girard College, at Philadelphia, is built, was transported from the quarries over a hilly road to be shipped at Hudson.\*

The Lebanon Springs are only seven miles from the line of the road, and as soon as the main road is completed, a branch will be made to that place. That the Berkshire and Hudson Rail Road will materially advance the prosperity of this rising city, I do not entertain a doubt.

The whaling business has been carried on pretty extensively in Hudson, since 1830. Eleven ships, amounting to something like four thousand tons, are now engaged in this useful enterprise. The Hudson Whaling Company has a capital of \$300,000; one third of which is invested in three fine ships.

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\* The marble required for the Girard College cost about \$180,000.

Capt. Macy, late of the Liverpool packet line, is sole proprietor of one of the ships; and the others are held by joint stock companies. The president of the Hudson Whaling Company, is a genuine descendant of Nantucket, and a brother of the far-famed Paddock, master of the ship Oswego, wrecked some years ago on the coast of Barbary.

There are several square-rigged vessels, from this city, employed in the merchant service, and it is a singular fact, that at one time more shipping was owned at Hudson than in the city of New York.

Rail Road Ropes are manufactured in this place, by Messrs. Folger and Colman. It is the only establishment of the kind in the country. More than 150 tons are turned out annually. These ropes are often one and a half miles in length; more than 200 men would be able to carry. Ten miles of these ropes are used on the Portage Rail Road, in Pennsylvania, per annum. Of the twenty-seven original purchasers, or proprietors, of Hudson, one only survives—*Alexander Coffin*; I enjoyed his company for an hour, and found him affable and intelligent; and although he had attained the advanced age of ninety-six, he appeared active and sprightly. He was born in Nantucket, and is a near relative of Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin. When I saw him he was in the enjoyment of good health, and told me that he could walk a mile without

resting. He has outlived a numerous offspring, with but one exception. Of ten children, one daughter only survives, and she is in her seventy-fourth year. This venerable old man is universally esteemed by his fellow-citizens, for his patriotism and integrity. His reputation remains unblemished by the foibles and vices, which, alas, too frequently mar the glory of gray hairs.

His scattered locks are white  
With the hoar frost of time ; but in his soul  
There is no winter. He, the uncounted gold  
Of many years experience, richly spreads  
To a new generation ; and methinks,  
With high prophetic lore doth stand sublime,  
Like Moses, 'tween the living and the dead.

I was introduced to a Capt. Gardner, now in his seventieth year. He had just returned from a successful whaling voyage, after an absence of three years. He sailed out of Hudson, fifty-two years ago. He spoke of another voyage with all the energy and ardor of youth.

The new Court House, recently completed, is one of the finest specimens of Grecian architecture I have ever seen. It is about 300 feet wide. The building, including the wings, has 116 feet front ; the main edifice, 40 by 60 feet, and 60 feet high, is surmounted by a dome 40 feet high, rising in majestic grandeur above the other buildings of the city,

and is entered by a portico, 16 feet, with six Ionic columns; the wings are severally 34 feet in front, by 44 in depth, and two stories high. The front is of Stockbridge marble, and the ends and rear of blue limestone. The centre contains the Court room, Sheriff's, and Surrogates offices; the west wing, rooms for the Supervisors, County clerk, Grand and Petit jury, and District attorney; and the east wing, the jail, with twenty cells on the plan of the State prisons, and the Keeper's dwelling. The Court room is splendidly furnished, and the whole structure affords good evidence of the taste of the architect, and the liberality of the county. It cost \$30,000. The private dwellings of this city are generally neat, but few are very spacious or elegant. Cyrus Curtis, Esq., one of the leading men, has, however, a noble mansion of brick, the cupola of which overlooks the city.

The city contains eight places of public worship: one Episcopal, two Presbyterian, one Baptist, one Methodist, one Universalist, and two Quaker churches. The new and spacious Presbyterian edifice is built of limestone, of the Gothic order, and will compare in architectural proportions with the finest specimens of our country. The new Church of the Dutch Reformed is a neat and chaste specimen of the Doric order.

The mortality of the city is, I am told, less than

that of any other in the state. The cholera of 1832 did not visit the city of Hudson.

In the course of my ramblings about the city, I visited Dr. White's Insane Asylum. Viewing it as the work of individual effort, it well deserves respectful notice. It has been in successful operation since 1830. The building is somewhat imposing in its appearance, and its location is peculiarly eligible and airy. It is constructed of limestone, procured from an inexhaustible quarry about a mile from the city. It is 120 feet in length. The centre is three stories, and two wings two stories in height, with a basement under the whole, for bathing and culinary purposes. It is well calculated for the purpose, being divided into rooms for the accommodation of about sixty patients. It is situated on elevated ground, commanding fine scenery, good air, and pure water. In the rear are extensive grounds, where the inmates can exercise, and be diverted by games of ball, quoits, &c. Upon examining the interior of the establishment, the visitor finds every thing light and airy, well adapted for the comfort and restoration of the patients; the rooms are neatly kept, well furnished, ventilated, and heated. The attendants, male and female, appear to be attentive and kind. A separate building is assigned for noisy and disorderly patients. In his medical labours, Dr. White is assisted by his son, Dr. G. H.

White. Their treatment is upon the most approved plan, and has been quite successful, being in recent cases about 90 per cent. At present there are 48 patients; 275 have been admitted since the opening of the institution.

It is worthy of remark in this place, that Dr. White was induced to enter upon so difficult an enterprise from the occurrence of two cases in his own family, which led him more attentively to study the philosophy of the human mind for nearly twenty years, and to gather for their benefit from the systems of Europe, and the institutions of our own country, the most approved medical and moral treatment.

The treatment of a community of maniacs is most arduous; but when the principles of benevolence, guided by wisdom, are enlisted in the cause, the reward of an approving conscience will more than compensate the devoted friend of the poor lunatic. Of Dr. White it may be said,

Thou art their friend—

Thy wasting midnight vigil is for them :

The toil, the watching, and the stifled pang,

That stamps thee as a martyr, is for them ;

They cannot thank thee, save with that strange shriek,  
Which wounds the gentle ear. Yet thou dost walk

In high ministry of love and power,

As a magician, 'mid their spectre-foes,

And burning visions.



Considerable attention is paid in Hudson to education. On the opposite corner of the Asylum stands a three story brick edifice, occupied as a Classical Boarding School. It is under the management of Mr. Andrew Huntington. The number of scholars is limited to twenty-five. It consists of boys from eight to sixteen years of age. Besides the common branches of an English education, the studies pursued are the Latin, Greek, and French languages, Algebra, Geometry, Rhetoric, and Chronology. The pupils are constantly under the care of the principal. The discipline of the school appears to be strict, but at the same time mild and parental. The expense of tuition, for each pupil, per annum, is \$160, including tuition, board, lodging, washing, fuel, lights, and stationary. There are several other good schools, public and private.

Few towns in this country have sent into the arena of public life more distinguished men than Hudson. It was here that Ambrose Spencer commenced his professional career, about the year 1793, and continued in a very extensive and honourable practice, until his removal to Albany, in 1804, shortly before his appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court. He was well educated in early life, and applied himself with assiduity, at the proper period, to the study of the law. In his profession he was rather solid than brilliant. His gigantic mind



could grasp and comprehend the most abstruse subjects. Upon the bench he had no compeer; and it was but common praise, when he was styled by cotemporary lawyers the Mansfield of America. Although an active and leading member of the dominant political party from 1802 to 1816, during the most exciting period of our history, Judge Spencer never suffered his judgment to be biassed, or the ermine of justice to be sullied. All parties and partisans, without one known exception, testified to his unyielding firmness, and spotless integrity, as a judge. Well may the citizens of Hudson cherish, as they do, with pride, the recollection, that that city was the theatre of his first efforts; the efforts of a genius, and of talents, which so long adorned the bench, and which have left an undying record of the glory and greatness of their possessor.

It was here, too, that William W. Van Ness commenced the practice of law, though at a period somewhat later. He was admitted to the bar about 1790, and appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1807, when he removed to Albany. In Judge Van Ness were blended in an eminent degree energy of mind and blandishment of manners. While at the bar, though not distinguished, perhaps, by so powerful a perception, or so strong a concentrativeness as Judge Spencer, yet his mind was al-

ways clear, his power of demonstration exceedingly vivid, and his mode of developing truth so lucid, that his facts and doctrines seemed to be written with a pencil of light. It was in these particulars that he was considered by many the superior of Judge Spencer. This happy combination of orderly intellectual powers, with a noble prepossessing person, and a musical voice, gave Judge Van Ness a commanding ascendancy over the minds of jurors, both in the capacity of advocate while at the bar, and of judge while on the bench.

Thomas P. Grosvenor, also, commenced the brilliant career which ended before he had fairly attained the meridian of life, in the city of Hudson. He is said to have been a man of powerful mind, and independent feelings. Though a strong and steady light in his profession, he seemed more peculiarly destined by nature for a statesman. He was elected, and several times re-elected, to Congress in the district composed of the county of Columbia, and for many years occupied a seat in the House of Representatives. During an eventful period he stood side by side with the first men in the nation, maintaining his doctrines with an energy in debate, worthy of the proudest orators of Greece or Rome. Profoundly skilled in the science of government, with a logical and well balanced mind, open in his policy, and fearless in his

course, he was no common antagonist to contend with.

Statesman, yet friend to truth! of soul sincere,  
In action faithful, and in honour clear;  
Who broke no promise, served no private end,  
Who sought no title, and who lost no friend;  
Ennobled by himself, by all approved,  
Praised, wept, and honoured, by the friends he loved.

Martin Van Buren, though a native of Kinderhook, removed to the city of Hudson, in 1806, shortly after he was admitted to the bar, and in the latter place pursued a very successful and lucrative practice until about the year 1812, when he was appointed Attorney General of the State of New York. His subsequent course, and his present elevated position as President of the United States, the highest office in the gift of the American people, are subjects familiar to every reader.

Elisha Williams, a native of Pomfret, in Connecticut, after acquiring a professional education, commenced the practice of law, in 1795, in the village of Spencertown, in the county of Columbia. He remained there a year or two, and then removed to Hudson, where he resided until the spring of 1833, a few weeks before his death. Ambrose Spencer, William Van Ness, Thomas P. Grosvenor, Jacob R. Van Rensselaer, Martin Van Buren, and Elisha Williams, were all practitioners at the Columbia

bar about the same period. Their forensic disputations were intellectual and entertaining in the highest degree. They formed a constellation of genius and talent scarcely exceeded in any age or country; and of that constellation, Elisha Williams was the "bright and peculiar star." As an advocate he stood unrivalled among his cotemporaries. His professional services were sought in every direction. His knowledge of human nature was deep and profound; his mind active and energetic; his fancy creative; his eloquence splendid and resistless. Thomas Addis Emmett declared him to be the most eloquent man of the age. "I have listened," said he, "to the great men of Europe, but never to one who could enchain the attention, and captivate the judgment, like ELISHA WILLIAMS."

In the grave yard, upon the eastern declivity of Prospect Hill, there is a chaste and beautiful marble monument, which marks the spot where sleeps the dust of Lieutenant William H. Allen, who was killed by the pirates off the Island of Cuba. He was in command of the United States vessel of war *Alligator*, when killed. He was renowned for his bravery.

"Let laurels, drenched in pure Parnassian dews,  
Reward his memory, dear to every muse;  
'Tis to the virtues of such men, man owes  
His portion in the good that Heaven bestows;

And, when recording history displays,  
Feats of renown, though wrought in ancient days;  
Tells of a few stout hearts that fought and died,  
Where duty placed them, at their country's side;  
The man that is not moved by what he reads,  
That takes not fire at their heroic deeds,  
Unworthy of the blessings of the brave,  
Is base in kind, and born to be a slave."

Col. Elisha Jenkins, and his brother Frederick Jenkins, are among the first settlers of the place, although not numbered among the twenty-seven original proprietors. The former has been Secretary of State, was Paymaster General during the last war, and for several years Mayor of Albany. Col. Jenkins, was one of the most active men in building the pier at Albany. They are both now residents of Hudson.

The compact portion of Hudson lies upon argillaceous marl, in horizontal strata,\* containing a considerable portion of sulphate of magnesia. In front of the principal street is a promontory of silicious slate, projecting in the Hudson in a bold cliff, whose summit, more than sixty feet from the surface of the water, has been formed into an agreeable promenade, by the corporation, and commands a beautiful view of the river, and the country on the opposite shore, bounded by the towering Kaats-

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\* Gordon's Gazetteer of New York.

bergs; being planted with trees and shrubs, and furnished with a house for refreshment, it has become a pleasant resort during the summer, and will repay the visiter for his pains at all seasons. Upon either side of this promontory is a bay of considerable extent, with a low and approachable shore, with ample depth of water for all vessels that may ascend the river. The North Bay, in particular, forms an unrivalled harbor, and I have been surprised, that it has not ere this been devoted to business purposes. The sites for building on the banks above, are equal, if not superior, to any in the city.\* The bay on the South is locked in by a lofty hill, anciently called Rorabuch, but which received the name of Mount Merino, in consequence of the establishment of a sheep farm here, some years since, containing five hundred acres of land. The streets of the city are regularly laid out, intersecting each other at right angles, except near the river, where they conform to the shape of the ground. From the promenade on the river, Warren, the main street, extends southeast more than a mile, with a gentle ascent to Prospect Hill, and there unites with others which subtend its base. This beautiful eminence, commanded by Becraft Moun-

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\* It will be seen by the map that the Berkshire Rail Road will pass over this section of the City of Hudson. It is decidedly the best location.

tain, furnishes a fine view of the river, the Catskill Mountains, and an extent of country for grandeur and variety scarcely surpassed in any part of our land. Portions of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, are seen from this singularly located hill. It also affords an almost entire view of Columbia County. The hill is about 200 feet high, rising with a uniform smooth surface, and falls off in the southeast to a low meadow, which divides it from the north end of the mountain. It is composed of a solid mass of hard clay (or pan) not stratified, containing round pebbles of quartz, gneiss, granite, &c., with pebbles of slate, chlorite, jasper, basamite, &c., The mass of the mountain is graywacke, supporting a blue compact limestone. The upper strata of both rocks contain a great variety of petrifications. The limestone affords a fair marble, which is used for flagging the streets, and for architectural purposes.

The day and night boats of the "New York, Albany, and Troy Line," and the "People's Line," going up and coming down, land and receive passengers at the dock. Two steamboats ply between Hudson and New York for passage and towing; and a steamboat departs daily for Albany, touching at the intervening places. There are three hotels, and several taverns. I found very excellent ac-



commodations in my visits to this place at Boutell's. Mr. B. has recently removed to a new and spacious house, where he will be able to accommodate travellers in his usual good style. Nothing adds more to the reputation and advantage of a place, than commodious well-managed houses of entertainment.

Columbia County ranks among the five wealthiest in the state, and yet it has but one bank located at Hudson, with a capital of but \$150,000; a sum altogether inadequate to furnish accommodations to the business community of a county whose manufacturing, and other business operations, will compare with almost any section of the state.\*

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\* The population of Columbia is 40,000, and that of Hudson is 6000. At Hudson, and within six miles of it, are the following concerns, all of which require extensive banking accommodations to carry on their operations:—

Incorporated Whaling Company, capital, \$300,000; Private Companies, owning 9 ships, cost and outfit, \$300,000; one brig and a schooner engaged in foreign commerce, employing annually \$30,000; Freighting establishments, paying out in their operations annually, \$633,000; one Steam Mill, with a capital invested and employed, of \$20,000; one Brewery, employing annually \$20,000; capital employed in the coal trade, \$25,000; one Air Furnace, capital invested and employed, \$35,000; an extensive Rope Factory for Rail Roads, the only one in the State, employing annually, \$30,000; capital invested and employed in trade and merchandise, independent of the above statements, \$875,000; Hudson Print Work, capi-



Directly opposite the city of Hudson is the village of Athens, with a population of 2000 inhabi-

tal, \$385,000; amount paid for labor, fuel, &c. annually, \$100,000; amount paid for printing, cloths, and dye-stuffs, annually, \$405,000—annually printed 4,200,000 yards; Columbiaville Cotton Factories, capital, \$105,000; amount paid out for raw material, labor, &c., annually; four Woollen Factories, capital, \$60,000; amount paid out for wool, labor, fuel, &c., annually, \$110,000; eight Flouring Mills, embracing a capital of \$50,000; amount used annually in their operations, \$80,000—Total amount of invested capital, \$1,540,000—Total amount of necessary floating capital, \$2,200,000.

There are also three other Landings, with freighting establishments connected, which employ large capitals, and depend upon Hudson for their banking accommodations.

There are in Columbia county (independent of the foregoing statements) numerous other business places and operations which require banking facilities to a large amount. East and south of the city of Hudson, (and beyond the limits of 6 miles,) there are 80 Stores, 26 Flouring Mills, 2 Cotton Factories, 4 Woollen Factories, 1 Patent Block Factory, and the extensive Iron Works at Ancram.

North of Hudson, and beyond the same limits, are 40 Stores, 24 Flouring Mills, 2 Paper Mills, 3 Woollen Factories, 4 Cotton Factories, and the Freighting establishment at Stuyvesant.

In the county of Berkshire, adjoining Columbia on the east, there are large investments of capital in the manufacture of Iron and Woollen goods, which find their way to market through the city of Hudson; and the proprietors of those establishments depend upon obtaining their monied accommodation at Hudson.

tants. A steam ferry crosses every fifteen minutes. The principal business carried on in Athens is the manufacture of brick and lime. Twenty-five ships are employed in carrying these articles to market. There are six churches in this village, an Episcopal, a Dutch Reformed, a Baptist, a Methodist, a Lutheran, and a Quaker.

Stuyvesant is a beautiful village, situated on the bank of the Hudson, in the county of Columbia, about ten miles north of the city of Hudson. This was formerly a part of the town of Kinderhook, celebrated for being the birth-place of the President of the United States. It is a place of considerable business, having several important and extensive freighting establishments, from which large quantities of grain and other productions of the rich and fertile lands in the immediate vicinity, the northern range of towns of this county, and southern tier of the county of Rensselaer, are shipped for New York. From this village east and south by a gradual and unbroken ascent you arrive at an eminence on which are several points particularly desirable for country seats, a few of which I will take occasion to notice, as having been selected by eminent individuals, who are making active preparations to erect mansions at their earliest convenience: to wit, President Van Buren, Attorney General Butler, Judge Vanderpool, and

others. South of the President's, and on the same range of elevation, is the farm formerly owned by Jonas White, Esquire, containing about 600 acres of land, which for fertility of soil is not surpassed by any in this section of the country, and probably not in the state. Upon this farm, and about half a mile from the scite selected by the President, and upon the same range of elevation, is one of the most delightful locations for a country seat on the Hudson; having not only the same splendid view (with the President's and Attorney General's mansions) of the river to the north, the Catskill mountains to the west, but to the south having decidedly the advantage, commanding a full view of the city of Hudson, Merino Point, and the river for several miles. In this farm is included the promontory called Nutton Hook, immediately opposite to Cocksackie, with which it is connected by a well regulated ferry. This point is important from its peculiar position, being at the head of ship navigation, and at the head of the contemplated Cocksackie and Schenectady Rail Road, for which an application for a charter is now before the Legislature, which may be connected with the Hudson and Berkshire Rail Road by a link of but six miles in extent, thereby opening a communication by the way of this point both from the south and east to the west. I have been induced to speak thus particularly of

the "White Farm," from the fact of its combining all that can be desired by the gentleman of leisure, the farmer, or man of business. I do not wish to be understood, that the adjoining lands will not compare with this farm in quality of soil—but that its peculiar situation, the bend in the river giving it a front on the river on two sides, renders it beautiful beyond the powers of description. The old town of Kinderhook, for richness of soil, fertility, and adaptation to every branch of agriculture, is not surpassed by any land in the state. This fact the highly cultivated fields, splendid farm-houses, and substantial barns, abundantly prove.

Yours, truly.

## LETTER XIX.

*Literary Institutions of Poughkeepsie—Distinguished Men  
—Stranger's Grave—Public Journals—Manufactures—  
Mines of Dutchess County, &c. &c.*

Poughkeepsie,\* May, 1837.

DEAR P.—I am aware that my rambling series of "*Letters about the Hudson*," commenced with this beautiful village. But as its increasing population, its various manufacturing establishments, and its temples of literature and learning, strike the mind rather as the power of fairy enchantment, than as the production of the energy and enterprise of this "work day world," it will be my endeavour to complete what I so imperfectly begun.

The enterprise of Poughkeepsie varies from that of many other places. It is guided by intelligence and liberality. The directing spirits seem to possess a higher motive than that embraced in Iago's advice, "put money in thy purse." They exhibit a patriotic pride in the rising wealth and prosperity of the whole village, and a deep interest in the cause of education. As an evidence of this, one only need glance at the regularly paved, clean, and

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\* Poughkeepsie, from the Indian word, *Apokeepsing*, safe harbour, organized 7th March, 1788.

level streets; its tastefully designed, neat, and elegant private residences; its handsome, sprightly, business-like stores; its noble seminaries, rich, ample, and commodious in their architecture; among which, like a throned queen, pre-eminently beautiful, stands the Collegiate School, with its chaste and elegant Grecian proportions. But it is not, friend P., my object to turn eulogist, but rather to state facts. The institutions of learning are eminently entitled to notice. The building of the Collegiate School, situate on that noble eminence, known as College Hill, has been finished and in operation since November, 1836. The building is of brick, 137 by 76 feet, a perfect model of the Athenian Parthenon. It will accommodate one hundred pupils, together with the family of the principal, and his assistants. Besides the principal, there is a Professor of Mathematics, of the Ancient Languages, of the French, Spanish, and other modern Languages, and one of History.

The School is conducted on purely philosophical principles; reference being had to the nature of the juvenile mind, and constant efforts employed to develop its powers in their natural order, and to preserve them in their relative strength. The domestic arrangements and modes of instruction are adapted to youth of every age, and they are instructed in such branches as may either qualify

them for commercial life, or prepare them for a collegiate course, and the attainment of a liberal education, according to the wishes of their parents or guardians. Those who are intended for commercial life are taught Orthography, Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Geography, Rhetoric, Logic, Mathematics, History, Natural Philosophy, Political Economy, Civil Polity, the French and Spanish languages; and those intended for a collegiate course, apply themselves to the Latin and Greek Languages, in addition.

The government of the School is supervisory and parental; whilst the strictest order is enjoined, such discipline only is employed as most effectually tends to call into action the moral sense of the scholar. Select portions of the Scripture are read daily, their fundamental truths inculcated, and such familiar lectures are occasionally delivered, as best serve to illustrate their moral and religious design and tendency, without having a direct bearing upon the peculiarities of any Christian denomination. Sabbath mornings and evenings are devoted to the study of the Bible; and scholars attend church at such places as their parents, or guardians, direct. The rewards and punishments are of an intellectual and moral nature, addressed to the understanding and the heart. Rewards for good deportment, and diligence in study, are, the confidence and good will

of instructors; approbation and love of friends and relations; self-government; rapid improvement in learning; advancement to a higher class, and an approving conscience. Punishment for negligence, and irregularity of conduct is, chiefly, disapprobation of instructors; private and public censure; studying during the hours of diversion; removal to a lower class; confinement; and finally, if incorrigible, dismissal from the school. Strict attention is paid to the health of the pupils, and they are attended by a skilful and experienced physician, when necessary. Buying or selling, or bartering, and the use of tobacco, are strictly prohibited. There are two terms in the year, 23 weeks each. The first commences on the first Wednesday in November; the second term the first Tuesday in May. The principal and his family constantly and familiarly associate with the youth committed to their care. The annual expense per scholar, is \$230. The sum includes all charges for instruction, board, books, stationary, bed and bedding, washing, mending, room, fuel, lights, &c.

The new building of the Dutchess County Academy, for boys, has been completed. It is three stories high, and occupies a very commanding position. The frame of the old edifice occupied as the Academy, was brought to this village from Fishkill, shortly after the Revolutionary war.



Under the present organization of this Academy, each pupil, whatever may be the department of science pursued by him, has the benefit of the combined talents of all the teachers. The teachers not only hear the ordinary recitations, but give *lectures* to the classes in all the departments of science taught by them. To enable them to do this to the greatest advantage to the pupils, the Trustees furnish a set of Globes, and Mechanical, Philosophical, and Chemical apparatus, of which each pupil pursuing the studies to which they appertain, has the benefit.

The building of the Poughkeepsie Female Academy, was erected in 1836. It is of brick, and is situated in the heart of the village. It opened on the 18th of May. The average number of pupils during the first year was from 70 to 80. It justly ranks among the first Female Institutions in the country.

The Female Seminary of Miss Booth stands high in the estimation of the public, and I think deservedly so. Miss B. is, from her moral and intellectual qualities, eminently well calculated to educate young ladies.

Poughkeepsie may well be proud of her Literary Institutions, for in this respect she is without a rival. In the course of two years the place has

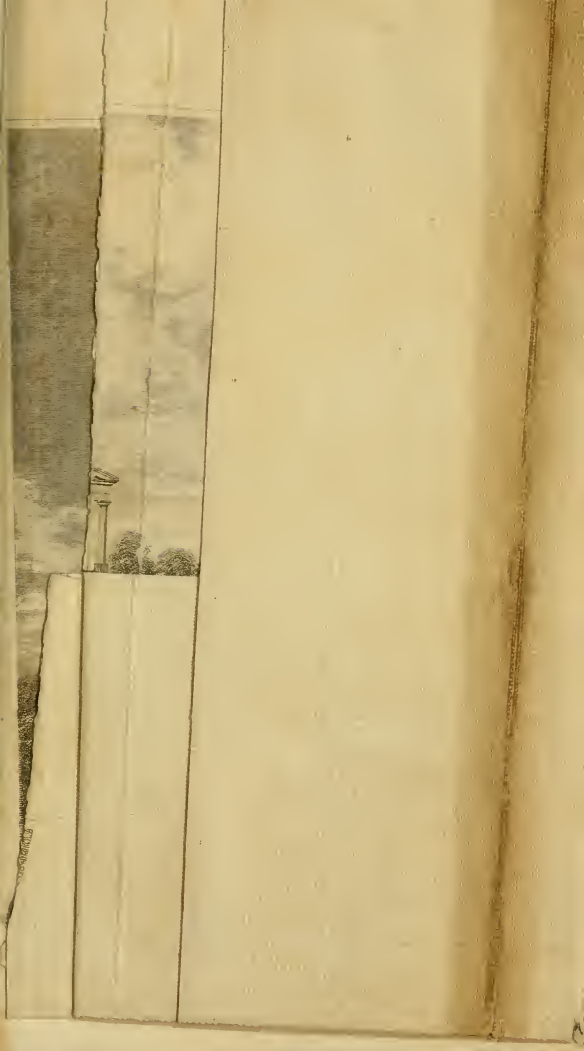
paid for three temples of science, well nigh *one hundred thousand dollars*.\*

Among the most distinguished men in this beautiful village, I shall notice a few, whose public services have made them pre-eminent.

Judge James Emott, president of the Dutchess County Bank, and a large stockholder in that institution, with whose interests and prosperity he has been long identified, demands a more elaborate notice than a mere passing tribute to his worth. I must content myself, however, with a brief notice of this excellent man, whose worth can only be fully appreciated by those who have the privilege of his intimacy. In every public trust which this gentleman has assumed, his conduct has been marked with uncompromising integrity, sterling ability, and disinterested zeal. His assiduity in the office of commissioner under Gov. Jay, his ability and gentlemanly deportment as speaker of the house of Assembly in this state, his untiring devotion to his country's service, and the more immediate welfare of his constituents, as member of congress, during the last war, and his exemplary deportment as a circuit judge, have gained for him universal ad-

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\* The Collegiate Institute cost about \$70,000; the Female Academy, \$14,000; and the Dutchess County, \$11,000.







# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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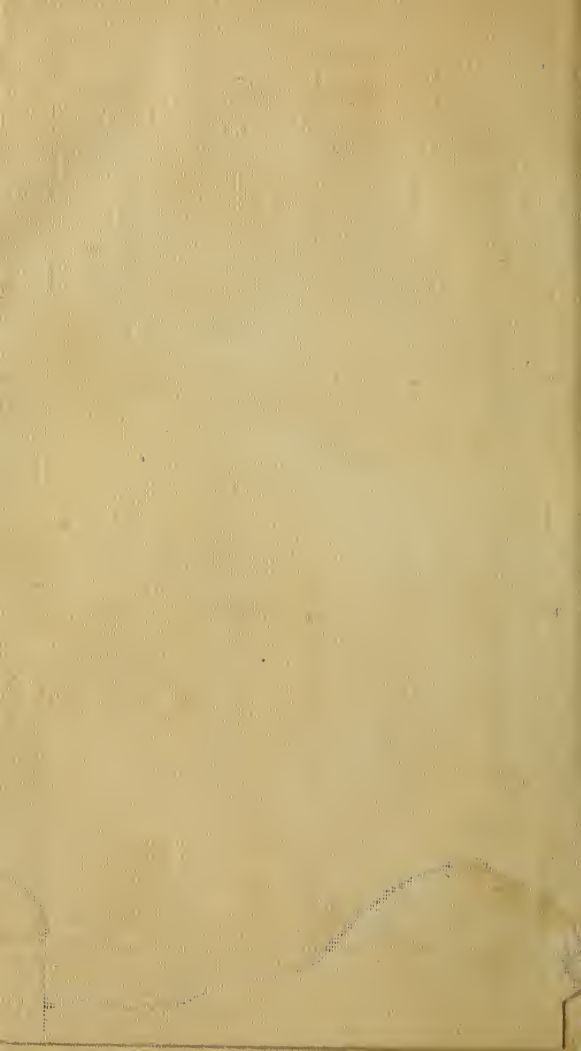
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miration and respect. In his judicial character, he was particularly remarkable for the exhibition of those virtues which characterize him as a philanthropist and as a man. His urbanity at the bar, his patience, mildness, and dignity, in the most arduous of all employments, endeared him to the profession of which he was at once an ornament and a guide; while the depth of his learning, and the soundness of his judgment, were best acknowledged in his opinions, which were seldom reversed. The ermine of his justice remains unsullied. He is a gentleman of the old school, evincing in his intercourse with society, a high sense of honour, and great moral purity and simplicity of character. The estimation in which he is held by the Episcopal church, of which he is a "bright and shining light," and the influence he exerts in its general councils, are well known. He was the personal and confidential friend of De Witt Clinton. Judge Emott's residence is one of the most commanding and beautiful on the Hudson, where he entertains his friends with that cordial urbanity which marks the finished gentleman.

" His life is gentle; and the elements  
So mingled in him, that Nature might stand up,  
And say to all the world, *this is a man.*"

In passing the new and splendid mansion of the

Hon. Nathaniel P. Talmadge, a senator in Congress, I must be allowed to say a few words of its occupant. Mr. T., who is yet in the prime of life, has always devoted himself to the public good. His patriotic exertions in the senate of the United States, if not always crowned with success, shine conspicuous amidst the public calamities which they would have averted. After graduating with distinguished honour at Union College, he applied himself to that profession which is the highway to public favour and emolument. But, the honours of the forum were soon attained; and the splendors of the great American senate had higher attractions for a man, whose brilliant career may be considered as just begun. Transferred from the assembly and senate of his own state, where his eminent abilities were constantly exerted for the benefit of his fellow-citizens, to the senate of the United States, his votes and speeches on every subject fully attest his worth. He is a genuine old-fashioned republican; one who is never guided by party trammels, but whose whole soul is given to his whole country. His speeches are marked by great vigour of thought, chasteness, and beauty; and to a most fascinating eloquence, he adds the more valuable quality of a sound and discriminating judgment. Honesty, sincerity, amiability, moral excellence, and intelligence, are stamped in-



delibly on his countenance and character. To the genius, enterprise, and energy of this gentleman, the village is largely indebted, for its present as well as prospective prosperity. I have heard with regret, that Mr. T. contemplates withdrawing from the national councils. I hope, however, he may be induced to remain, where public spirit and exalted patriotism are so much needed.

‘ —He was not born to shame ;  
Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit,  
For 'tis a throne where honour may be crown'd.’

Would you, friend P., visit one of the most enchanted spots which the midsummer-night dream of poetry ever conjured up in the revelry of delicious imaginings, then visit this gentleman's residence, and if Oberon does not enchain you quite, you may go away, and live in the memory of it forever.

Poughkeepsie is also the residence of the Hon. Smith Thompson, one of the associate judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, and several years since the whig candidate for the gubernatorial chair of this state. His legal decisions are well known to the people of the United States, and his moral and intellectual character are of the highest grade. He is, to sum up all in few words, “a ripe and good scholar,” and an “honest man.”

In contemplating the beautiful edifices which

strike the beholder from so many points in this delightful place, we are at once reminded of the accomplished gentleman to whom the inhabitants of Poughkeepsie, as well as the crowds of strangers who pass them, are indebted for that gratification of taste, which is almost peculiar to the spot. Need I mention the name of JOHN DELAFIELD, Esq. the efficient financier, and cashier of the Phœnix Bank in the city of New-York. Mr. D. seems to have searched the relics of antiquity, and ransacked the accumulated treasures of modern refinement, to embody in so many various modifications of the beau ideal, the exemplars of refined taste. The city of New York is largely indebted to Mr. Delafield for his spirited exertions in behalf of science, literature, and the arts: it was under his guidance that the Historical Society of New York was renovated; and the New York Athenæum also was benefitted at his hands. The University of the City of New York, which is now an honour to the city and to the state, owes its existence in part to Mr. Delafield, as one of five gentlemen who projected that noble institution; Mr. D. was secretary to the council for three years. It was the taste of this gentleman which caused the erection of the first purely Grecian edifice in New York, being the bank of which he has been the active executive officer for seventeen years. Among other embellish-

ments introduced by Mr. Delafield, is the enclosure of Hudson Square, excelled by none in this country, and, as is admitted by Europeans, is second to none of the London squares. The financial sagacity and liberality of Mr. D. are too well known to be here noticed; but we cannot resist the inclination, to record in these pages the name of one, who is alike the representative and the patron of genius.

We frequently see among business-men great public spirit, and talents of a high order. To this class belongs Paraclete Potter, for many years editor and publisher of the Poughkeepsie Journal, and a highly respectable bookseller. The comprehensiveness of this self-taught and highly gifted individual's mind, is only equalled by the kindness of his nature, and the urbanity of his manners; but the rarest excellence of all is the perfect disinterestedness which marks every feature of his character. Is any measure proposed by which the public weal is to be advanced, his energetic helping hand comes to the work without hesitation or delay. He does not stop to inquire, "how much shall I gain by this?" His mind seems cast in a purer mould; and while less elevated natures are battling for wealth, and the world's notice, he appears to keep aloof from the venial herd, as if "*pro bono publico*"

was both his watchword and his motto. He is a prominent member of the "improvement party."

"Last, but not least," I must allude to General Walter Cunningham. Nature designed this gentleman for what he so emphatically is—a business man. As cashier of the Dutchess County Bank, his sterling ability, prudent forecast, as well as energetic decision, have given him an influence which few men possess. As a financier, he has few superiors. His sagacity in these operations has been crowned with signal success, and it has enabled him at the same time to be a liberal friend and a public benefactor. He possesses an elasticity and buoyancy of spirits, which no time or circumstances can depress. His person is commanding, his carriage dignified and determined, and he is withal a most amiable and upright man.

About half a mile below the village, on the grounds\* of Henry Livingston, Esq., is a secluded

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\* These grounds, and the spacious old mansion, have been in the possession of the Livingston family about one hundred and thirty years. The building is of stone, one hundred feet in length, but has been covered with boards. It contains something like thirty rooms. The name of the grandfather of the present occupant is to be found on the declaration of American independence. A ball was fired through this house by a British vessel, during the revolutionary war, and is still in the possession of Mr. L.

Col. Henry Livingston, the present occupant, is a gen-

and romantic cove on the Hudson, called "The Stranger's Grave," which received its name from the following circumstance. Long before the introduction of steam-boats on the river, and when the entire transportation was confined to sloops, a foreign vessel, on her way to Albany, cast anchor opposite this cove. Shortly after a boat came ashore, bearing a dead body, for which a grave was immediately prepared in a nook of the cove, beyond the reach of tide mark. The body was silently and sadly interred, and the seamen embarked and pursued their course, leaving the wondering spectators of this scene to their own surmises. A short time elapsed, and a marble tablet was placed at the head of the grave. The deceased was a seaman, a native of Denmark, and had died of fever. The slab bears many masonic emblems, to which order the deceased belonged. The locality of this sequestered place is truly beautiful; there is a loneliness about it,

Most soothingly sweet—for young lovers to meet,  
Or poets to wake the dear theme.

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tleman of the old school. He is much esteemed by the inhabitants, and has been honoured by his fellow-citizens with several important offices, the duties of which he has ever discharged in a manner to secure the esteem of his friends, and command the respect of all.

One of the best evidences of the prosperity of a village, is to be found in the appearance of its public journals. If the sheet is badly printed, and contains few advertisements, the distant reader at once comes to the conclusion, that it is a place of little or no business. On the contrary, if the paper be neatly executed, and well filled with advertisements, he infers at once that it is a place of considerable mercantile and business importance, and that the community are liberal and intelligent. The papers of Poughkeepsie forcibly illustrate these remarks. It is but justice to say, that for their typographical beauty, and general good taste, they are unsurpassed by any similar publications in the country. The three papers, the Poughkeepsie Journal, by Jackson & Schram, the Poughkeepsie Eagle, by Platt & Ranney, and the Telegraph, by Kelly & Lossing, have a united circulation of more than four thousand copies weekly. The Journal was established in the revolution, and was conducted for many years by Paraclete Potter, Esq., with distinguished ability; the Telegraph was commenced in 1824, and the Eagle in 1828 by Mr. Platt. The two former support the Van Buren administration, and the latter is the county organ of the whig or anti-administration party.

Considerable attention is paid to reading in this place. The circulating library of Messrs. Potter

& Wilson\* contains about four thousand choice volumes, embracing the whole range of literature. Their store is also well supplied with both foreign and American books, in superior style of binding. There is likewise another very respectable bookstore, and a library for the Mechanics' Association.

Since my last visit to this place, several new enterprises have been introduced into the village, and others have been enlarged and perfected. The Poughkeepsie Locomotive Factory, which is about commencing operation, will exceed, when in the full tide of successful experiment, in extent and facilities of manufacture, any thing of the kind in this country. It is got up under the direction of Mr. Bouten, an ingenious civil engineer, late of Boston. It is presumed that this establishment will turn out from fifty to seventy-five locomotives per annum. The probable value of engines manufactured, making the number of fifty, and putting the price at

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\* I cannot refrain from acknowledging in this place my indebtedness to Mr. Wilson, for his gentlemanly deportment, cordial hospitality, and the many valuable facts which he so readily and cheerfully furnished. He possesses taste and talent of a high order, as the contributions which have graced the pages of the Edinburgh and other literary journals of Europe fully testify. His modesty is equal to his merit. He is a genuine Scotchman.

\$6000 each, the lowest minimum, will amount to \$300,000, per annum. The principal building is of brick, two stories, with an attic 200 by 50 feet. There are several auxiliary buildings in connexion with the main; a blacksmith shop, 100 by 30 feet; a building for the construction of steam boilers, 50 by 30 feet, all built of bricks and covered over with slate. The building cost \$30,000. More than two hundred and fifty hands are employed in this establishment.

Two Carpet manufactories have been established since December, 1835. They will manufacture annually more than 100,000 yards of fine and superfine ingrain carpeting, worth at present prices from \$1, to \$1.20 per yard. These establishments are the result of individual enterprise.\*

A new Furnace commenced casting since the opening of navigation, this spring. It will manufacture castings to the amount of \$30,000 per annum.

The manufacture of Paper Hangings has been recently commenced by Thomas Christie & Co., late of Boston. The paper is of a superior quality, and for beauty and durability will compare with the French. These gentlemen are erecting a build-

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\* Henry Winfield & Co. are proprietors of one of these establishments. Mr. Winfield is well known as one of the first civil engineers in the country.



ing which will enable them to manufacture a larger quantity than any similar establishment in the Union.

While on a visit to this village, I witnessed the operation of Beale's Patent Safety Harness. Robert Beale is a citizen of Washington, D. C., but contemplates removing to Poughkeepsie, as the most desirable place for introducing several of his useful inventions. Like Gen. Harvey, before alluded to, he possesses a curious and inventive mind. He was educated for the bar, but has turned his attention to mechanical improvements. The harness alluded to, dispenses with the use of traces, breeching, singletree, and singletree-brace. Attached to the harness there is a safety string, which, by pulling, detaches the horse in an instant from the carriage. So far as time is important in taking the horse out, nothing can be more complete; two or three seconds is all that is necessary to entirely disengage the horse from the carriage. The horse walks down hill with perfect safety, and seems to travel over the ground with all the ease and grace of the unharnessed steed.

The Brewery of Messrs. Vassar & Co. is now the largest establishment of the kind in the United States. The recent enlargement is of brick, 200 by 50 feet, three and four stories high, which, together with its fixtures, cost the proprietors rising

\$40,000. It is calculated to turn out 50,000 barrels of ale per annum. The ale manufactured at this establishment is not surpassed by any in the country. It is used even in the city of Philadelphia, so famed for its excellent malt liquors.

In the County of Dutchess there are valuable beds of Brown Hematite. In Iron and Marble it contains treasures of no ordinary value.\*

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\* *Fishkill Ore Bed.*—This is the ore bed belonging to the Fishkill Iron Company. It is situated about three miles north-east of the village of Hopewell. The hill in which it occurs presents no peculiarity that I could discover, except that its surface is made up of coarse gravel, and has a rounded form in various places. The ore is covered by a stiff whitish clay, and is intermixed with the same substance, called *fuller's earth* by the miners. Quartz is also one of the accompanying minerals, and a sort of slate is often found in the centre of the masses of ore, which causes some inconvenience to the smelter. The whole bed is made up of nodules of ore of various sizes and forms, but usually rounded, which are covered, and apparently cemented together, with a yellowish-brown clayey ochre. These nodules are often hollow, and when this is the case, the inner surface is highly polished, and has the appearance of having been fused. Sometimes, also, beautiful stalactites, of various sizes and forms, are found in these balls, and occasionally there is observed a thin lining of a black powdery matter, resembling plum-bago, which is believed to be oxide of manganese. The structure of the ore is fibrous, and its colour brown.

This bed is worked by levels or burrows carried in va-

Formerly an old steam-boat house stood at the foot of Main-street, but that has been demolished, and a beautiful hotel has been erected in its place,

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rious directions through the hill in which it is situated. These excavations have already extended to the distance of ninety or an hundred feet from the entrance. The roof of these burrows is from twelve to thirty feet above the floor, and is supported by pillars of ore, from five to ten feet in thickness. The ore alternates with the clay and slate, and from what I subsequently observed, I infer that the bed rests upon mica slate, although I did not find that rock in the immediate vicinity. Independently of the interest which this locality possesses in a mineralogical point of view, the judicious manner in which the mining operations are conducted, renders it worthy of particular notice.

*Clove Ore Bed.*—This is an extensive deposit of brown hematite, situated in the south-western part of the town of Unionville. The general appearance of the hill in which this occurs does not differ much from that of the Fishkill ore bed, but it appears to be more extensive, at least it has been more extensively explored. In most instances it has been worked *to the day*; large excavations having been made in various places, which communicate with some central point by means of roads or rail-ways. The Dover Iron Company have, however, sunk a well or shaft, and are constructing a lever to intersect it, a mode of working which promises to be highly advantageous. The ore is in general similar to that found at the Fishkill bed, but perhaps there is a larger proportion of the *ochrey*, or *fine ore*, as it is here called, which is usually considered more valuable than the other varieties.

by G. J. Vincent & Co. It fronts the steam-boat dock, and its windows look out upon the green and glassy waters of the river. The house is well managed by Messrs. Van Kleeck & Son.

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*Foss Ore Bed.*—Proceeding from the Clove bed in a north-western direction, after crossing Chestnut Ridge, we come to a deposit of ore known by the above name, in the town of Dover, about a mile and a half W. S. W. from the furnace of the Dover Iron Company. This bed is situated in a valley between two spurs of the mountain which passes through this part of the county, and it is particularly interesting, as showing the association of the hematite with the mica slate, which occurs here in strata of some thickness, and contains garnets of various sizes. In extent, however, this bed appears to be inferior to either of those already noticed. The ore is in much larger masses, and is not only more difficultly reduced to powder, but contains a larger proportion of foreign substances.

*Amenia Ore Bed.*—Passing through Dover Plains, in the vicinity of which are inexhaustible quarries of white and coloured marbles of excellent quality, we find another deposit of hematite in the north-western part of the town of Amenia. This is truly a magnificent locality, whether we consider the quality or the enormous quantity of the ore. Supplies are here obtained for the Amenia Iron Company, and for several furnaces in the State of Connecticut. The bed has been opened at various places for the distance of 100 yards, and the ore presents all the varieties observed at the celebrated Salisbury deposit. It often occurs in the form of stalactites of various sizes, and possessing uncommon beauty. The same high polish, or blackish sooty matter, is observed on the surface of the

Time would fail me to speak of all the objects of interest and utility, connected with a village of unequalled beauty, enterprise, and prosperity. It holds out inducements to the ingenious mechanic, in my opinion, no where surpassed. The banking capital of the village amounts to about \$1,000,000; this money is mostly loaned in the county, and principally to the industrious mechanic or the thriving farmer. Of the soundness and perfect solvency of the three banks of Poughkeepsie, there can be no manner of doubt; they are managed with great skill, prudence, and liberality

Yours, truly.

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nodules, and they not unfrequently have a light brown colour, and a structure so distinctly fibrous as to bear a considerable resemblance to wood. A fragment of a stalactite from this locality, was found to have a specific gravity of 3.828; and to lose upon calcination 13.5 per cent of its weight. The composition of this specimen will probably be a fair average of that of the pure hematitic variety from the various localities in this county.

*Beck's Report.*

## SARATOGA SPRINGS.

THE writer of the foregoing letters made a flying excursion to Saratoga Springs, and intended to have given a particular description of the place, but has been compelled by circumstances beyond his control, to omit an original account of matters and things relative to this fashionable resort. As these letters, however, will probably fall into the hands of many a traveller on the Hudson, who contemplates a visit, he would introduce from Mr. Davison's "*Traveller's Guide through the Middle and Northern States, and the Provinces of Canada*," the following account, with a few alterations, rendered necessary by changes which have occurred since the appearance of the last edition of that valuable work.

Saratoga Springs is situated north-easterly from Ballston Spa 6 1-2 miles, and 36 1-2 miles from the city of Albany. The village is located on an elevated spot of ground, surrounded by a productive level country, and enjoys, if not the advantage of prospect, at least the advantage of a salubrious air and climate, contributing much to the health and benefit of its numerous visitants. The springs, so justly celebrated for their medicinal virtues, are situated on the margin of a vale, bordering the village on the east, and are a continuation of a chain of springs discovering themselves about 12 miles to the south, in the town of Ballston, and extending easterly in the form of a crescent, to the Quaker village. In the immediate vicinity are 10 or 12 springs, the principal of which are the Congress, the Hamilton, the High Rock, the Columbian, the Flat Rock, the Washington, and the President. About a mile east, are found a cluster of mineral springs which go by the name of the Ten Springs.

### THE CONGRESS SPRING

Is situated at the south end of the village, and is owned by Doct. John Clarke; to whose liberality the

public are much indebted for the recent improvements that have been made in the grounds adjoining the fountain, for the purity in which its waters are preserved, and for an elegant colonnade erected over the spring, affording a convenient promenade to visitants.

The spring was first discovered in the summer of 1792, issuing from a crevice in the rock, a few feet from its present location. Here it flowed for a number of years, until an attempt to improve the surface around it produced an accidental obstruction of its waters, which afterward made their appearance at the place where they now flow. It is enclosed by a tube sunk into the earth to the distance of 12 or 14 feet, which secures it from the water of a stream, adjoining which it is situated.

From an analysis made by Doct. Steel, it appears that a gallon of the water contains the following substances: chloride of sodium, 385 grs.; hydriodate of soda, 3 1-2 grs.; bicarbonate of soda, nearly 9 grs.; bicarbonate of magnesia, nearly 96 grs.; carbonate of lime, a little more than 98 grs.; carbonate of iron, upwards of 5 grs.; silix, 1 1-2 grs.; carbonic acid gas, 311 cubic inches; atmospheric air, 7 do.

To this spring perhaps more than any other spot on the globe, are seen repairing in the summer mornings, before breakfast, persons of almost every grade and condition, from the most exalted to the most abject. The beautiful and the deformed—the rich and the poor—the devotee of pleasure and the invalid—all congregate here for purposes as various as are their situations in life. To one fond of witnessing the great diversity in the human character, this place affords an ample field for observation. So well, indeed, has it been improved by the little urchins who dip water at the fountain, that an imposing exterior is sure to procure for its possessor their services; while individuals less richly attired, and whose physiognomy indicate a less liberal disposition, are often compelled to wait till it is more convenient to attend to their wants.

Most persons soon become fond of the water; but the effect on those who taste it for the first time is frequently unpleasant. To such, the other fountains are generally more palatable, having a less saline taste than the Congress.

The HIGH ROCK is situated on the west side of the val-



ley, skirting the east side of the village, about half a mile north of the Congress. The rock enclosing this spring is in the shape of a cone, 9 feet in diameter at its base, and 5 in height. It seems to have been formed by a concretion of particles thrown up by the water which formerly flowed over its summit through an aperture of about 12 inches in diameter, regularly diverging from the top of the cone to its base. This spring was visited in the year 1767 by Sir William Johnson, but was known long before by the Indians, who were first led to it, either by accident or the frequent haunts of beasts, attracted thither by the saline properties of the water. A building was erected near the spot previous to the revolutionary war; afterward abandoned, and again resumed; since which the usefulness of the water has, from time to time, occasioned frequent settlements within its vicinity.

The water now arises within 2 feet of the summit, and a common notion prevails that it has found a passage through a fissure of the rock occasioned by the fall of a tree; since which event it has ceased to flow over its brink. This opinion, however, may be doubted. It is probable that the decay of the rock, which commenced its formation on the natural surface of the earth, may have yielded to the constant motion of the water, and at length opened a passage between its decayed base and the loose earth on which it was formed. This idea is strengthened from the external appearance of the rock at its eastern base, which has already been penetrated by the implements of curiosity a number of inches.

Between the Red spring in the upper village, and the Washington in the south part of the lower village, are situated most of the other mineral springs in which this place abounds. At three of the principal springs, the Hamilton, Monroe, and Washington, large and convenient bathing houses have been erected, which are the constant resort for pleasure as well as health, during the warm season.

The mineral waters both at Ballston and Saratoga are supposed to be the product of the same great laboratory, and they all possess nearly the same properties, varying only as to the quantity of the different articles held in solution. They are denominated acidulous saline and acidulous chalybeate. Of the former are the Congress,



(which holds the first rank,) the Hamilton, High Rock, and President, at Saratoga; and of the latter are the Columbian, Flat Rock, and Washington, at Saratoga, and the Old Spring and San Souci, at Ballston. The waters contain muriate of soda, hydriodate of soda, carbonate of soda, carbonate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, oxide of iron, and some of them a minute quantity of silica and alumina. Large quantities of carbonic acid gas are also contained in the waters, giving to them a sparkling and lively appearance. The Congress, in particular, the moment it is dipped, contains nearly one half more than its bulk of gas; a quantity unprecedented in any natural waters elsewhere discovered.

Doct. Steel, in his geological report of the county of Saratoga, published a few years since, remarks, that "the temperature of the water in all these wells is about the same, ranging from 48 to 52 degrees on *Fahrenheit's* scale; and they suffer no sensible alteration from any variation in the temperature of the atmosphere; neither do the variations of the seasons appear to have much effect on the quantity of water produced.

"The waters are remarkably limpid, and when first dipped, sparkle with all the life of good champagne. The saline waters bear bottling very well, particularly the Congress, immense quantities of which are put up in this way, and transported to various parts of the world; not, however, without a considerable loss of its gaseous property, which renders its taste much more insipid than when drank at the well. The chalybeate water is likewise put up in bottles for transportation, but a very trifling loss of its gas produces an immediate precipitation of its iron; and hence this water, when it has been bottled for some time, frequently becomes turbid, and finally loses every trace of iron; this substance fixing itself to the walls of the bottle.

"The most prominent and perceptible effects of these waters, when taken into the stomach, are *cathartic*, *diuretic*, and *tonic*. They are much used in a great variety of complaints; but the diseases in which they are most efficacious are jaundice and bilious affections generally, dyspepsia, habitual costiveness, hypochondriacal complaints, depraved appetite, calculous and enphritic complaints, phagedenic or ill-conditioned ulcers, cutaneous

eruptions, chronic rheumatism, some species or states of gout, some species of dropsy, scrofula, paralysis, scorbutic affections and old scorbutic ulcers, amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, and chlorosis. In phthisis, and indeed all other pulmonary affections arising from primary diseases of the lungs, the waters are manifestly injurious, and evidently tend to increase the violence of the disease.

"Much interest has been excited on the subject of the source of these singular waters; but no researches have as yet unfolded the mystery. The large proportion of common salt found among their constituent properties may be accounted for without much difficulty—all the salt springs of Europe, as well as those of America, being found in geological situations exactly corresponding to these; but the production of the unexampled quantity of carbonic acid gas, the medium through which the other articles are held in solution, is yet, and probably will remain, a subject of mere speculation. The low and regular temperature of the water seems to forbid the idea that it is the effect of subterranean heat, as many have supposed, and the total absence of any mineral acid, excepting the muriatic, which is combined with soda, does away the possibility of its being the effect of any combination of that kind. Its production is therefore truly unaccountable."

In addition to the springs already enumerated, a valuable SULPHUR SPRING was discovered a few years since in the vicinity of the Hamilton Spring, in the rear of the Congress Hall. It rises from a depth of about twenty feet, in a tube of about 4 feet in diameter, and affords an ample supply of water for the bathing establishment with which it is connected. It has already proved highly efficacious in many cases of salt rheum, scrofula, and other cutaneous eruptions; and were it generally known, would undoubtedly be resorted to more frequently by persons afflicted with these complaints.

The boarding establishments of the first class at Saratoga Springs are the Congress Hall and Union Hall at the south end of the village, the Pavilion at the north, and the United States Hotel in a central situation between them. Besides these, there are a number of other boarding houses on a less extensive scale, the most noted of which are Montgomery Hall and the York House

in the south part, and the Columbian Hotel and Washington Hall, in the north part of the village; Prospect Hall, also kept by Mr. Benjamin R. Putnam, is beautifully located about one mile northwest of the village, and is a very respectable establishment.

The CONGRESS HALL, kept by Mr. Mungen, is situated within a few rods of the Congress spring, to which a handsome walk, shaded with trees, has been constructed for the convenience of guests. The space in front of the building is occupied by three apartments, each of which is enclosed by a railing, terminating at the front entrances of the piazza, and each used as a flower garden. The edifice is 200 feet in length, 3 stories high, besides an attic, and has two wings extending back, one 60, and the other about 100 feet. In front of the hall is a spacious piazza, extending the whole length of the building, 20 feet in width, with a canopy from the roof, supported by 17 massy columns, each of which is gracefully intertwined with woodbine. There is also a back piazza, which opens upon a beautiful garden annexed to the establishment, and a small grove of pines, affording both fragrance and shade to their loitering guests. The Congress Hall can accommodate from 250 to 300 visitants, and is justly ranked among the most elegant establishments in the union.

The UNITED STATES HOTEL, kept by Seaman and Marvin, with its gardens and out-buildings, occupies a space in the centre of the village of about five acres. The main building is composed of brick, 125 feet long and 34 wide. It is four stories high, and has a wing extending west 60 feet, three stories high. A building 34 by 60, appropriated to drawing and lodging rooms, has also been added on the south, and is connected with the main edifice by broad piazzas in front and rear, extending the whole length of both buildings. The ground in the rear and south of the hotel is handsomely laid out into walks, terminating on the west in a garden belonging to the establishment, and the whole is tastefully ornamented with trees and shrubbery. The front of the edifice is enclosed by a delicate circular railing into three apartments, each containing a choice variety of flowers and shrubs, and shaded by a row of forest trees extending the whole length of the building. The hotel is situated equally dis-

tant between the Congress and Flat Rock springs, and commands a view of the whole village, and from its fourth story a distinct view is had of the surrounding country for a number of miles. This establishment can accommodate nearly 250 visitants, and is one of the largest and most splendid edifices in the United States.

The PAVILION, kept by John Robson, is situated in a pleasant part of the village, immediately in front of the Flat Rock spring. The building is constructed of wood, 136 feet in length, with a wing extending back from the centre of the main building, 80 feet, and another (which has been recently added) extending along Church street, of 200 feet, affording numerous private parlours, communicating with lodging rooms, for the convenience of families. The main building is 2 1-2 stories high, with the addition of an attic, which, with the handsome portico in front, sustained by delicate colonnades, renders it, in beauty and proportion, one of the finest models of architecture this country can produce. The large rooms of the Pavilion are so constructed that by means of folding doors the whole of the lower apartments may be thrown into one—an advantage which gives much additional interest to the promenade and cotillion parties, which frequently assemble on this extensive area. A large garden, to which is added a fish pond, is connected with the establishment. The Pavilion is calculated for the accommodation of about 250 visitants. Mr. Robson, the present manager of this establishment, is a gentleman of great experience in the business, and will increase the popularity of the house.

The UNION HALL is one of the earliest and most respectable establishments in the vicinity, and is situated directly opposite the Congress Hall. It has, within a few years, been much improved in its appearance, and enlarged by considerable additions to the main building. It now presents an elegant front, 120 feet in length, three stories high, with two wings extending west 60 feet. It is ornamented in front by 10 columns, which rise to nearly the height of the building, and support the roof of a spacious piazza. A garden in the rear of the building, together with a beautiful flower garden on the north opening to the main street, are among the varieties which contribute to the pleasantness of the establishment. It is

now kept by Mr. W. Putnam, a son of the original proprietor, and ranks in point of elegance and respectability with the most favoured establishments in the vicinity.

**The READING ROOMS.** There is in the village a printing office and bookstore, with which is connected a reading room, a mineralogical room, and a library, under the superintendence of the same proprietor. These rooms, a few doors north of the U. S. Hotel, are contained in the same building with the library and bookstore, but have their separate apartments. That appropriated for the reading room, is large and airy. It is ornamented with a variety of maps and charts, and is furnished by the daily mails with about 100 papers, from different parts of the United States and from the Canadas, besides several periodical publications. The mineralogical apartment is on the second story, to which stairs lead from the reading room. This apartment contains specimens of all the minerals discovered in this vicinity, together with a variety from different parts of the union, and from Europe. They are very handsomely arranged in glass cases, have been much augmented of late by Dr. J. H. Steel, of this place, to whom the proprietor is principally indebted for their collection and arrangement. An apartment adjoining the reading room, contains a library of about 2000 volumes, which are well selected, and receive constant additions from the most fashionable productions of the day. There is also kept at the rooms a register of the names of visitants at the Springs, their residence and places of board. The names thus entered frequently number from 6 to 8000 in the course of the season.

These rooms afford a pleasant retreat from the noise and bustle of the boarding establishments, and are much frequented by ladies and gentlemen of taste and fashion. The terms are reasonable, and are scarcely an equivalent, considering the extent and usefulness of the institution.

At both the villages of Ballston and Saratoga Springs, there are always sufficient objects of amusement to render the transient residence of their summer guests pleasant and agreeable. Those whose taste is not gratified at the billiard rooms, which are annexed to most of the boarding establishments, can always enjoy a mental recreation at the reading rooms; a ride on the rail road, carriages for which leave both villages several times a

day; or a short excursion in the neighbourhood, where sufficient beauty and novelty of scenery are always presented to render it interesting. The amusements of the day are usually crowned with a ball or promenade. The respective apartments appropriated for these occasions are calculated to accommodate from 150 to 200 guests; but they often contain a much greater number.

The spacious areas of the cotillion rooms are between 80 and 90 feet in length, and when enlivened by the associated beauty and gayety resorting to the springs, present a scene of novelty and fascination seldom equalled.

About two miles east from Saratoga Springs there is also a small fish pond, situated on the farm of a Mr. Barhyte. Parties often resort thither, as well to enjoy the amusements of fishing as to partake of a repast on trout, the proprietor reserving to himself the exclusive privilege of serving them up.

THE END.

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